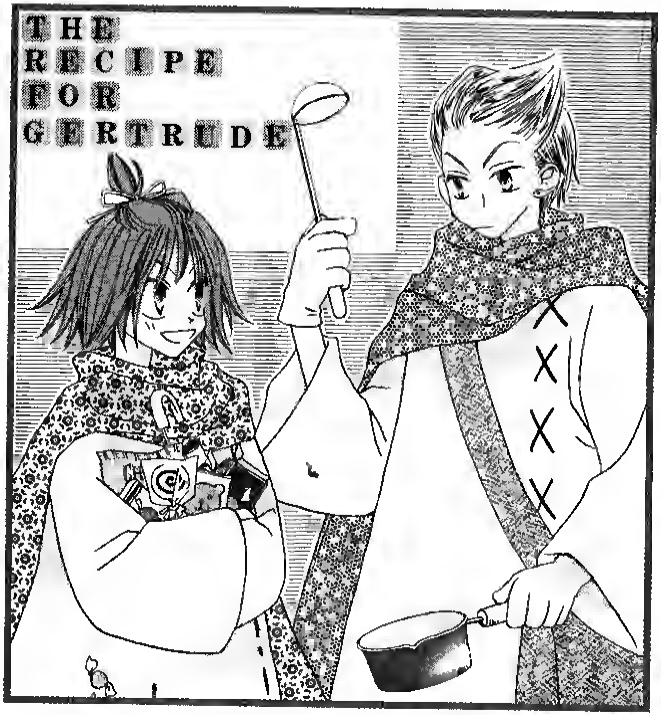

The RECIPE for GERTRUDE

By Nari Kusakawa

Volume 3

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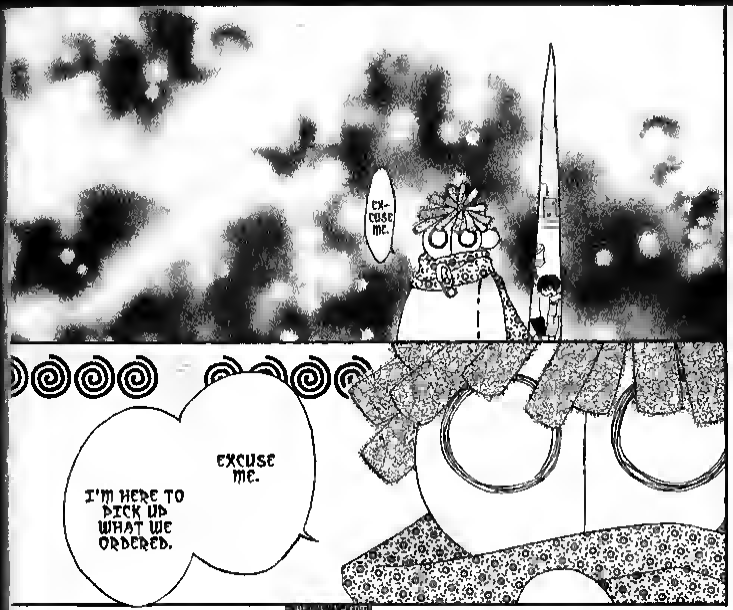
IT WAS MY BROTHER WHO TRANSFERRED THE "RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE" TO MY BONES.
BUT, THE SOUL IN HIS BODY IS CLAUDE'S, GERTRUDE'S CREATOR
I WAS HIDING FROM HIM AT GERTRUDE'S PLACE.
SO, HE USED MY UNSUSPECTING PARENTS TO LURE ME OUT.
HE KEPT IT A SECRET FOR 17 YEARS. IT WAS LIKE WE WERE FAMILY.
IT WAS A PERFECT ACT.
IT WORKED.

Preview Art for Chapter 9

It looks as though they're in a movie theater, although it didn't look that way when I was drawing it. Maybe it's the background. I think I've done a pretty good job with Gertrude's hair this time. I generally have difficulty drawing light, flowing hair maybe because my own hair is so stiff and straight. One of the things I constantly try to improve on is giving hair a breezier, more flowing look.

FLAP
COME TO THINK OF IT, KYUSAKU USED TO DO THIS, TOO.
AM I SUPPOSED TO HATE HIM?
HE ALMOST KILLED MOM AND DAD.
HE HURT GERTRUDE
MAYBE HE WASN'T LOOKING OUT FOR HIS "BABY SISTER."
MAYBE HE WAS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR THE RECIPE
HOW'S GERTRUDE?

SQUEEZE
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN HOME-- TO WHERE HE WAITS.
...MARIOTTE?
OH.
WAS I SLEEPING? JUST NOW?
OOPS I WOKE YOU UP. YES, YOU NODDED OFF BECAUSE THINGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF AND YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
YOU'VE FINISHED PACKING, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO SLEEP?
THANKS

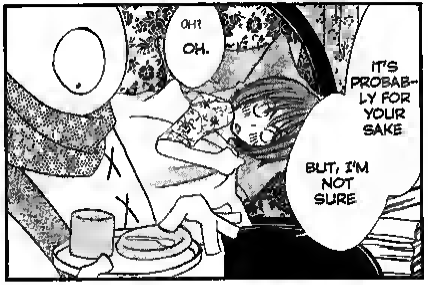

excuse me.
excuse me.
I'm here to pick up what we ordered.

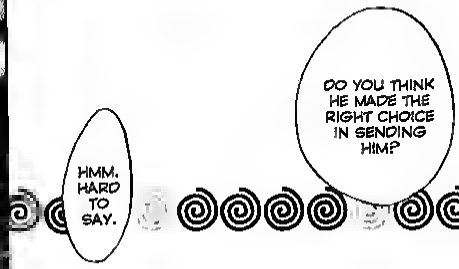
RATTLE
excuse me
I'm here to pick up...
but, I don't have a choice.
Gertrude is hurt.
Mari-otte's the only one who can concoct remedies.
Sahara's human
I really hate it here.
I wish I could just get this over with.
being stared at by the storekeeper's big, googly eyes gives me the creeps.

Encyclopedia
Everything in the world

I don't know.
What do you think he meant by "go to the encyclo-pedia?"

the same.
He'll get better. It just takes time.

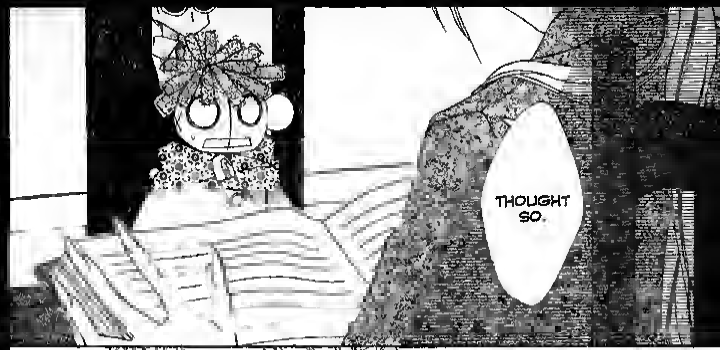

oh?
oh.
It's probab-ly for your sake.
But, I'm not sure.

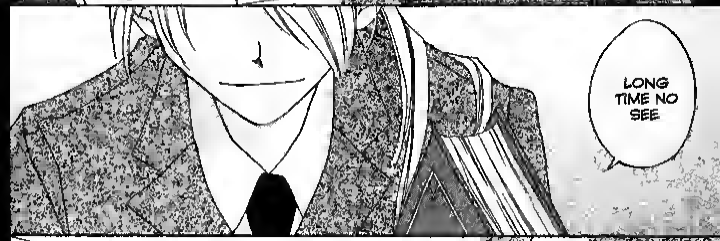

Hmm. Hard to say.
Do you think he made the right choice in sending him?

YES, HE DOES.
DOES HE HAVE LONG HAIR?
HEY
UH-HUH
DOES HE WEAR A SUIT?
FRONT LOCKS AND BLACK TIE?
.....
POINTY EARS?
JUST ONE EYE?
YES YES.
NOW HURRY.
SOME-ONE'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP NOW.
KNOCK KNOCK
CLICK
YES, HE DID
HE HAS A VERY INTERESTING AURA, THOUGH IT'S DIFFERENT FROM GERTRUDE'S
WHEN I SAY 'HIM,' IS IT REALLY--?!
HEY
DID GERTRUDE REALLY CALL HIM?

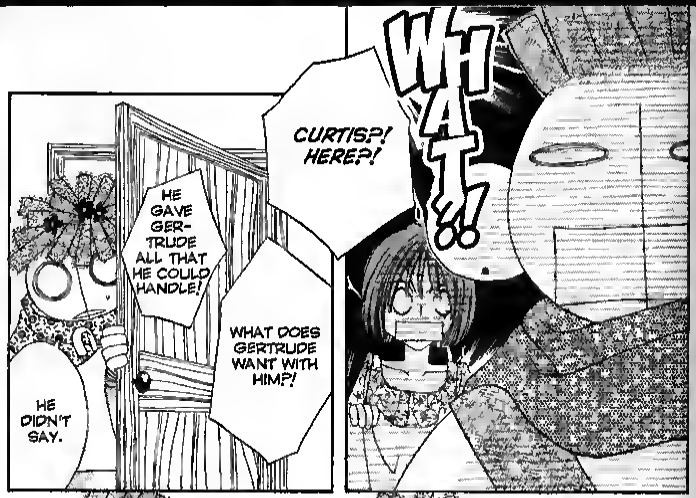
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
I HATE SAYING THIS OVER AND OVER, BUT NO FOOD OR DRINK.
HUMPH
OH, IT'S JUST YOU.
YOU'RE SORT OF CUTE!
WELCOME TO--
BUT, IT'S HARD TO READ WITH THESE.
OH, THESE.
PERSON?!
THE PERSON GERTRUDE REQUESTED THOUGHT I'D LOOK BETTER THIS WAY.
IT'S NOT A THING?!
HE SAID I SORT OF RESEMBLED HIM.
WHY THAT LOOK, THOUGH?! IT'S UNFAIR.
ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO THE FRONT LOCKS AND BLACK TIE.

I TAKE IT GERTRUDE'S FINE?
I SAID WE'D MEET AGAIN
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE THE ONE TO CALL, THOUGH.
WHY YOU? YOU HAVE A PRIOR FOR WANTING A BODY PART BACK!
WHO KNOWS?
ACTU-ALLY...


THOUGHT SO.

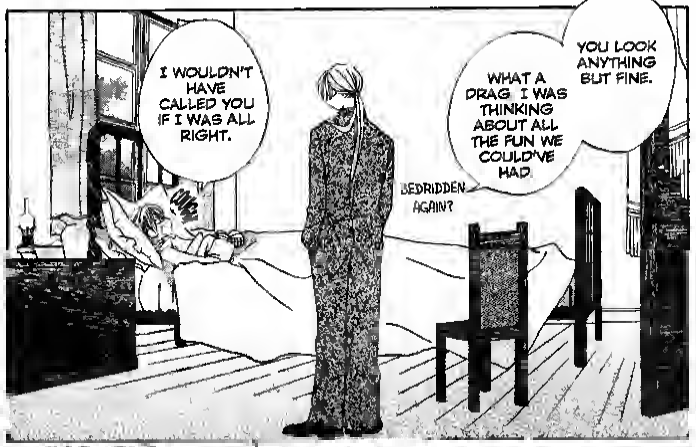

LONG TIME NO SEE

CURTIS?!


WHAT!!
CURTIS?! HERE?!
HE GAVE GERTRUDE ALL THAT HE COULD HANDLE!
WHAT DOES GERTRUDE WANT WITH HIM?!
HE DIDN'T SAY.

DEFINITELY!
ARE THOSE HAIRPINS?
WANNA GO LISTEN IN ON THEM?
GERTRUDE KICKED ME OUT THE SECOND I SHOWED CURTIS TO HIS ROOM.

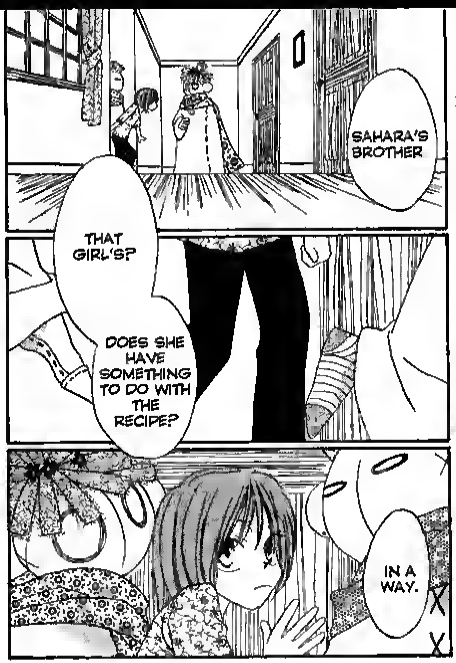
...THAT MAY BE.
BUT, LOOK AT YOU. YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND UP.

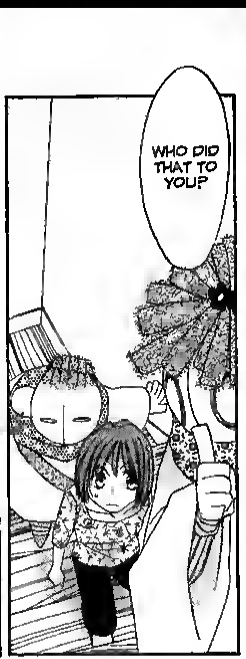

I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU IF I WAS ALL RIGHT.
COUGH
BEDRIDDEN AGAIN?
WHAT A DRAG. I WAS THINKING ABOUT ALL THE FUN WE COULD'VE HAD.
YOU LOOK ANYTHING BUT FINE.

I CAN STILL PUT UP A MEAN FIGHT.
I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T BE WALKING AWAY IN ONE PIECE.
TRUE ENOUGH
TRUE.

SO, YOU CALLED ME WHEN YOU'RE POWERLESS?
SURE THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR GETTING MY LEFT EYE BACK.

I NEED YOU TO PROTECT SAHARA FOR A WHILE.
BECAUSE YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO PROTECT HER?
YOU WANT ME TO DO IT INSTEAD?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
YOU'LL GET YOUR EYE BACK IN RETURN.

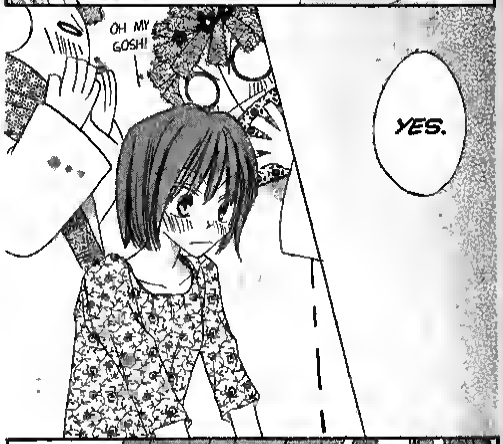

SAHARA'S BROTHER
THAT GIRL'S?
DOES SHE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RECIPE?
IN A WAY.


WHO DID THAT TO YOU?

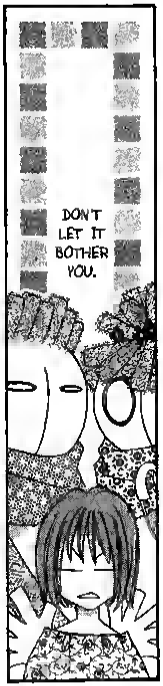
LOOK
I WANT TO MAKE A DEAL.

01

This is volume three.
It has five parts directly related to the main story plus a side story. I have a number of other short stories that I want to include in chronological order, but the number of pages says otherwise.
I apologize to my readers who might not be happy with this.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE RISKS ARE. YET, YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE A DEAL?
FORGET IT.
IF I JUST WANTED MY EYE BACK, I'D FIGHT YOU FOR IT. AT LEAST I'D KNOW WHAT I'M GETTING INTO.



I DON'T CARE IF IT'S DANGER-OUS
BUT, GERTRUDE GETS TO KEEP THE EYE LONGER.
SAHARA!
ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU WILLING TO BET A PART OF YOUR BODY?
YES.

SQUISH
SQUISH

SHE HAS TO WIN A CERTAIN GAME.
CONDI-TION?
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S NOT DANGER-OUS AT ALL.

OPEN YOUR MOUTH SLIGHTLY.
HEY!
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE...!
HER SOUL?!

HALF?!
GULP
WHAT?
JUST HALF
CHOP

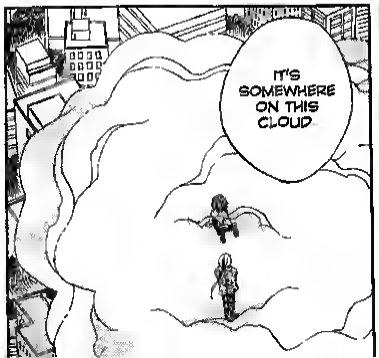
TILT YOUR HEAD BACKWARD A LITTLE.
I AM GOING TO HIDE THIS SOMEWHERE.
IF SAHARA FINDS IT IN TIME, SHE WINS. AND I WILL HONOR THE CONTRACT.
TALKED INTO IT BY SAHARA.
SO MUCH FOR THE WRITTEN PART.
RELUCTANT
SOMEWHERE?
IT'S A GREAT SPOT HUMANS CAN SELDOM VENTURE.
RELAX.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE?

I WASN'T ABLE TO SAY "DON'T WORRY."
FLUTTER FLUTTER
SHALL WE?
THE CLOCK'S TICKING.

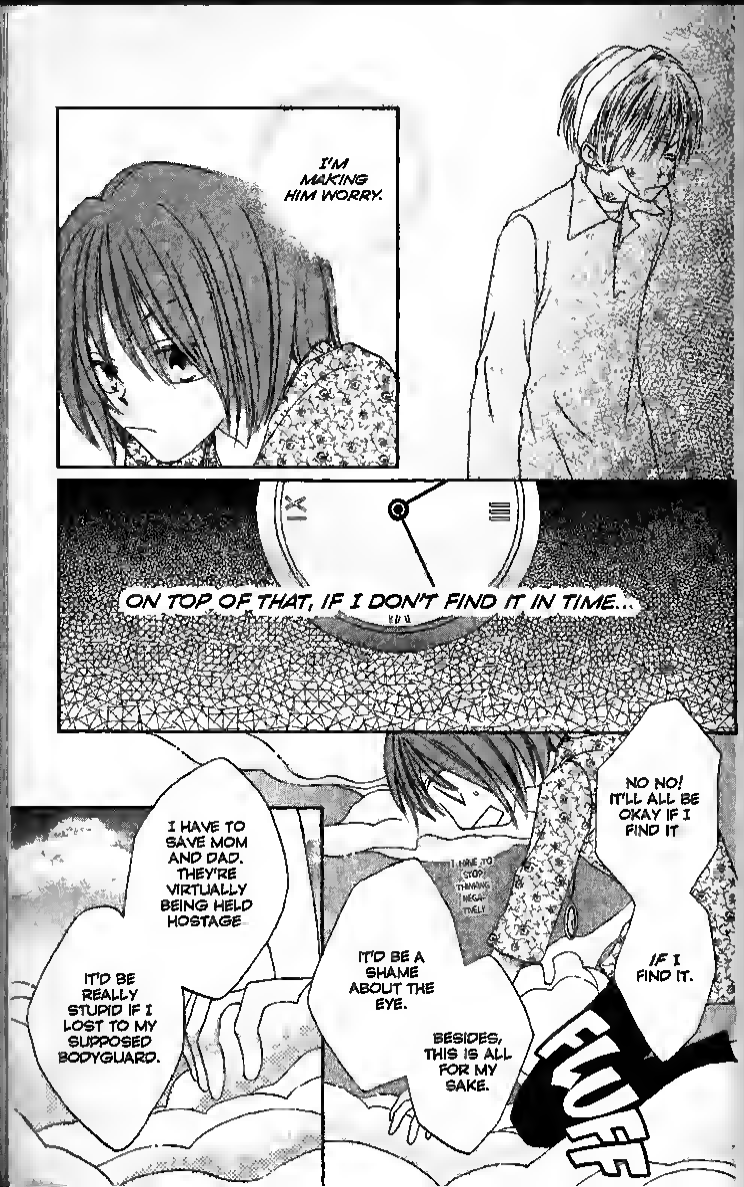
ANYTHING BEYOND THAT ISN'T GOOD.
YOU WON'T BE A NORMAL HUMAN AFTER THAT.
YOUR ESSENCE BECOMES UNSTABLE. YOUR SHADOWS AREN'T AS DARK. YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME SEEING YOURSELF IN A MIRROR.
ABOVE ALL, THE REMAINING HALF WILL LEAVE YOUR BODY AT THE SLIGHTEST THING.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ON DEATH'S DOORSTEP.
I'D SAY YOU HAVE AN HOUR.
IT'S A CLEAN CUT.
IT'LL BE AS BEFORE IF YOU REATTACH THEM IN TIME.
HUH? MY SHADOW DOESN'T SEEM AS DARK.
YOU EVIL MONSTER!
GUGG LULU!
FIGHT, SAHARA!

ONLY FORTY MINUTES LEFT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SURPRISED
IT'S... BIG.

FLUTTER
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW.
I HID THE CONTRACT


IT'S SOMEWHERE ON THIS CLOUD

I CAN TOUCH IT!
WE REALLY ARE!
WE'RE ON A CLOUD?!
IN YOUR PRESENT CONDITION, YES.

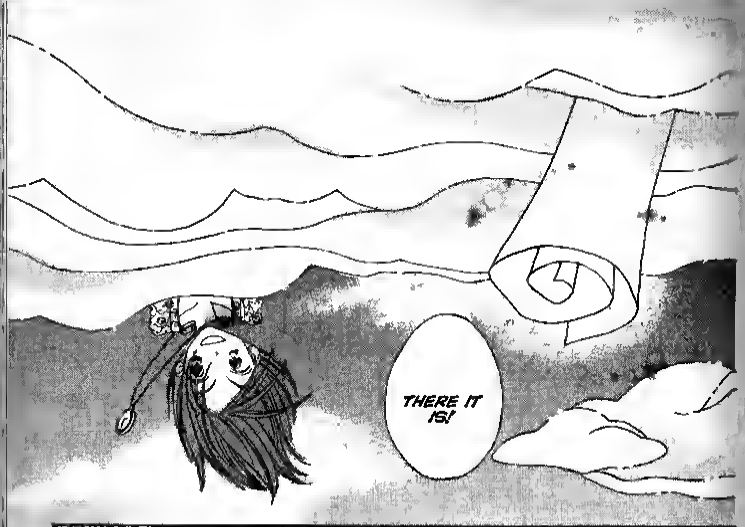

I'M MAKING HIM WORRY.
ON TOP OF THAT, IF I DON'T FIND IT IN TIME...
I HAVE TO SAVE MOM AND DAD. THEY'RE VIRTUALLY BEING HELD HOSTAGE
IT'D BE REALLY STUPID IF I LOST TO MY SUPPOSED BODYGUARD.
I HAVE TO STOP THINKING NEGATIVELY
IT'D BE A SHAME ABOUT THE EYE.
BESIDES, THIS IS ALL FOR MY SAKE.
NO NO! IT'LL ALL BE OKAY IF I FIND IT
IF I FIND IT.
FLUFF

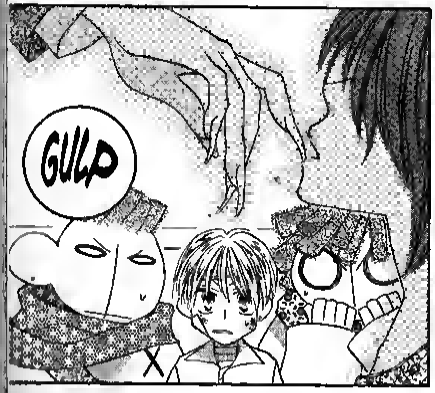
I MIGHT AS WELL DIG FROM END TO END.
IT'S HUGE.
FLUFF
FLUFF
TEN MINUTES ALREADY?
IT'S REALLY HARD TO TELL WHERE I DUG 'CAUSE IT'S ALL WHITE.
MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE.

I HEARD IT LAND.
HERE
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT.
OF ALL THE LUCK, IT LANDED WHERE THE GRASS IS REALLY LONG
SHOE LAUNCHING CAN BE FUN BUT...
ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU LAUNCHED IT INTO HERE?
WHEN I COULDN'T DO A SOMERSAULT...
WHEN I HAD PROBLEMS WITH MATH...
LET'S KEEP TRYING.

I HAVE TO FIND IT SOMEHOW!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I LOST A SHOE BY THE RIVER A LONG TIME AGO
SUSUGI?
SO?
DID YOU FIND IT?

WHERE'S THE REAL KYUSAKU THEN?
WHAT'S CLAUDE THINKING?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I KNOW ONE THING, THOUGH.
I WILL
"KEEP TRYING."
HE WAS SO ENCOURAGING. "KEEP TRYING."
HE WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME.
AND THE RECIPE.
NO. SOME OF THE PROBLEMS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RECIPE.
THEY WERE TOO TRIVIAL
"KEEP TRYING."
"ALMOST RIGHT"
"YEAH. LIKE THAT."
"KEEP TRYING."


THERE IT IS!


GULP

SNIP
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE NEVER DID FIND THAT SHOE.

MY "BROTHER" WASN'T PRETENDING

"YOU PROBABLY LAUNCHED IT TOO HARD, AND IT LANDED IN THE RIVER."

GERTRUDE, I'M REALLY SORRY.

WELL
IN THE END, YEAH.
IT WAS TOO EASY
WELL DONE
I GUESS I'M YOUR NEW FRIEND.
I GUESS SO

WHERE WERE YOU?!
I'M SORRY.
WELCOME HOME
I AM GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO HE REALLY IS.
CREAK
WOOF WOOF WOOF
SUSUGI?!
SAP
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE
BUT, I'M GOING HOME

A Volume's Worth of Preview Art

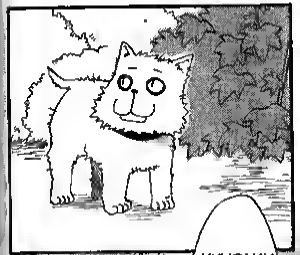
Part 1. This one brings back memories. It really looks like he's about to do something

I had space this time, so I included them

Part 2. I get the impression Sahara's bangs are really long.

Part 3. The thing on his hat is a snowflake--not a cobweb

Part 4. Sahara and the recipe. It's a combination I'll be using more often



Requirement: Flower.

Preview Art for Chapter 10

I like it when the cherry blossoms start drifting off in the wind. I wish I could lie under a tree and enjoy the show.

KILLED?
YOU...YOU KILLED HIM?
HE DIED WHEN HE WAS SEVEN.
THAT'S WHEN I POSSESSED THIS BODY.
YOU MEAN, WHERE'S KYUSAKU?
NOWHERE.
NO
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. IT JUST SO HAPPENED I WAS THERE.

I HAD SO MUCH LEFT TO DO
SO, I BECAME "KYUSAKU" AND CAME TO
AN
BUT, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE
I WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT ARRANGEMENT EITHER. THE BODY WAS A FOREIGNER'S. WORSE, IT WAS A CHILD'S---I'D HAVE NO FREEDOM.

I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME BACK.
I COULD DO WITHOUT YOUR "FRIEND," THOUGH.
AND KYU-SAKU?
I TOLD YOU BE-FORE.
I'M CLAUDE.
DAD IS JUST SKIN AND BONES NOW!
MOM LOOKS GREAT, THOUGH.
YOU WHO DOESN'T SHOW HIS PARENTS RESPECT!
THEY ARE MY PARENTS, AND THEY ARE NOT MY PARENTS.

DAAAA
EVEN IF YOU STAY, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WAKE UP FOR A LONG TIME.
THEY HAVEN'T SLEPT VERY MUCH RECENTLY.
AND THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION ?
IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO PAY THEM BACK.
AND THIS IS HOW YOU PAY THEM BACK?!
THEN WHAT ARE YOUR INTEN-TIONS?
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER AND GET CHANGED.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION
BESIDES, I CAN'T LEAVE MOM AND DAD LIKE THIS!
WE'RE GOING OUT.
DAAAA

CAME HERE?
THEN WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE?
ENGLAND.
YOUR FAMILY WAS VACATIONING THERE.
A VACA-TION IN ENGLAND?
I NEVER KNEW.
REAL-LY?
UH-HUH.
THAT MEANS MOM AND DAD DON'T EVEN KNOW THEIR SON DIED.
IF ANYTHING THEY'RE GRATEFUL "KYUSAKU" IS ALIVE THEY'VE TREATED ME VERY WELL SINCE
NEEDLESS TO SAY, "KYUSAKU'S" PERSONALITY CHANGED. AND HE FORGOT HOW TO SPEAK--- WHILE I LEARNED JAPANESE.
BUT, THAT WAS ALL ASCRIBED TO THE ACCIDENT.
YOUR PARENTS PROBABLY NEVER MENTIONED IT OUT OF FEAR OF UPSETTING "KYUSAKU."

STILL, THOUGH...
I'VE TOLD YOU ALMOST EVERYTHING I KNOW.
NO.
WHAT CAN I LEARN IN A COUPLE OF DAYS?
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION
WE CHECKED THESE...
EVEN THE MOST TRIVIAL TIDBIT WILL DO.
ANY-THING.
TELL ME ANY-THING THAT MIGHT HELP.
SOMETHING ABOUT CLAUDE.
HOW'S THIS FOR STARTERS?
LIKE?

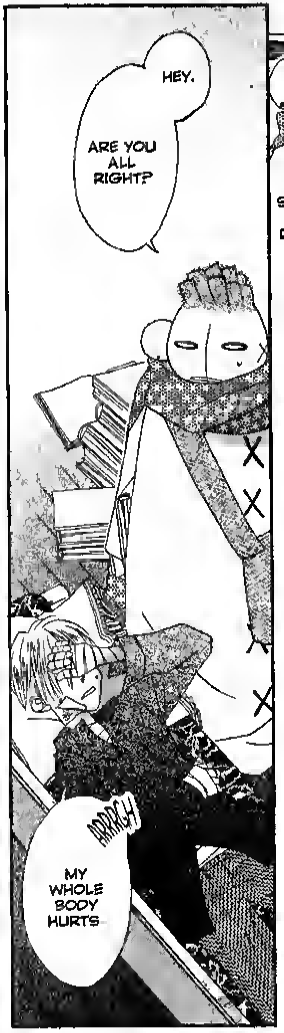
AAAAA
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
STAGGER
HUH?
WELCOME!
STEP INSIDE
OH MY
OH MY
DID YOU MANAGE TO MEET CURTIS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YEAH.
BUT, I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE LYING AROUND IN BED
SO? DID YOU FIND A WAY TO RETURN THE RECIPE TO THE BOOK?
INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED BUT NOT HOW I'M DOING?

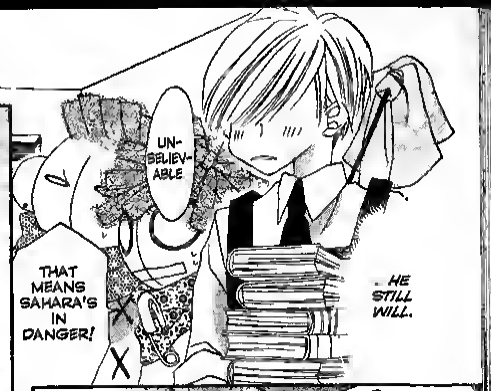
LIKE, WHY DID HE MAKE YOU?
I DUNNO.
IF I KNEW THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE LOOKED FOR THE RECIPE.
CLAUDE'S LAB.
THAT'S THE FIRST MEMORY I HAVE.
IT'S ALL VERY HAZY. I KEPT SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF IT FOR THE FIRST WHILE.
I DO REMEMBER BEING KEPT LOCKED UP IN THE LAB
HE WASN'T FINISHED EXPERIMENTING.
BUT HE COMPLETED YOU.
DID HE NEED MORE DATA?
WHO KNOWS?
IN TIME, I STARTED BEING SURE OF WHO I WAS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, CLAUDE STARTED GOING OFF THE DEEP END HE NEVER DID TELL ME WHY HE CREATED ME.
HE'S MAD?
.....
WELL, AS A SCIENTIST, YEAH, HE WAS AS MAD AS THEY COME.
HE'D SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR HIS RESEARCH.
I'D IMAGINE ..
HE'D DO THAT A LOT.

02

The first and second parts of this story are now available on CD!* I went to see a recording session for it, and I was really surprised at the quality of voices out there. The voices the talents used were nothing like what you and I are used to hearing everyday. It was a complete eye opener for me. They were so professional. And, their presence is nothing like ours. I knew from TV voiceover talents were good, but it was still surprising.

*CMX Editor's note: Not available in the U.S.A.





I DON'T GET MY EYE BACK IF YOU HARM HER.
GERTRUDE IS IT?
PRETTY SNEAKY OF HIM.
A BIZARRE ROAD TRIP
VROOM

I USED IT TO TAKE YOU TO THAT ANNEX.
IN CHAPTER FIVE
YOU EVEN HAD A CAR?
WHAT'S YOUR TAKE IN THIS?
SAHARA RIDES IN THE BACK-- WITH ME.
IT COMES IN HANDY.
HUH, CURTIS ONE EYE?
I MADE A DEAL IN WHICH YOU DON'T TOUCH HER.
PRRRT
Y?

I'D BEEN MEANING TO ASK THIS.
WHY THE NAME "GERTRUDE?"
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
NO, ACTU-ALLY
WHY? IS SOME-THING WRONG?
THE NAME IT'S ODD.
"GERTRUDE" IS A GIRL'S NAME
SO, I WAS THINK-ING...
MAYBE GERTRUDE'S REALLY A GIRL.
A GIRL'S NAME?
WHAT?!

THEN WHY?
IT JUST IS.
GIRL
NO! HE'S A BOY!
IS THAT TRUE?!
NOW, SIT DOWN, PLEASE
THAT COULD BE FATAL TO THIS MANGA!
LOVE?
NOT SAY-ING
THE NAME OF A GIRL YOU LIKED?

OOPS. EARS AND CLAWS.
THERE
YOU KNOW I'M A FOLKLORE T A.
WELL, THE FOLKLORE DEPART-MENT IS THE FARTHEST FROM HERE
IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO WALK THERE
UH-HUH.
WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE?
I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE GO ALONG.
I KNOW THIS PLACE.
IT'S YOUR UNIVERSITY
I WILL SAY IT'S NOT SOMETHING SO NOBLE
FLOP

SSSSSS

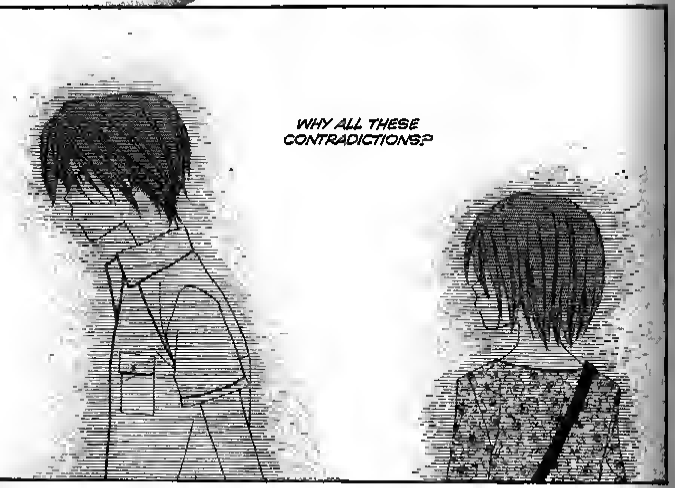
YOU IDIOT.
WAY TO GO.
SLIP...
WAUGH!
BUMP
WATCH OUT DOWN THERE!
WATCH OUT!

SMASH
WHY?
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO? GET HIMSELF KILLED?
PHEW.
I LET HIM TOUCH HER, THOUGH.

WHY?
WHY?

SEE?

HE'S REALLY CARING.



WHY? WHY NOW?!
COUGH
I DON'T HAVE... (HACK)...
CHRONIC AILMENTS.
HEAR THAT, YOU QUACK?! YOU'RE NOT SO SMART AFTER ALL!
SHUT UP!
BEATS ME.
I DUNNO.
MAYBE HIS WOUNDS ARE INFECTED.
YEAH! WHY NOW?!
LYIRRRRL
REALLY?
WRONG!
THEY'RE NOT INFECTED!
THEN
MAYBE IT'S AN OLD PROBLEM ACTING UP.

SNAP
.....!!
WHAT'S HE HIDING?
OH
HE WOKE UP.
DO YOUR WOUNDS HURT? YOU WERE GROANING THE WHOLE TIME.
OH
AH... URG
IT HURTS-- A LOT.
IT HURTS MORE NOW THAN WHEN I FIRST GOT HURT.

SPIN
PUPPEN!
I TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE--!
LOOM
THEN LET'S LOOK IN THESE BOOKS.
THUD THUD THUD THUD
FFFFT
GASP
HOW BRAVE
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I PUSHED MYSELF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. KEEP LOOKING
IT HURTS, BUT THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS TO REST QUIETLY
THUMP

THOUGHT SO.
RATTLE
NOT GOOD.
IT'S A FULL MOON!
MR. GERTRUDE! PLEASE, STOP!
I GET IT.
IN A WAY, SOMETHING WAS ACTING UP
GASP
WAUGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
The RECIPE for GERTRUDE
CHAPTER 11

Frailty, thy name is rice.

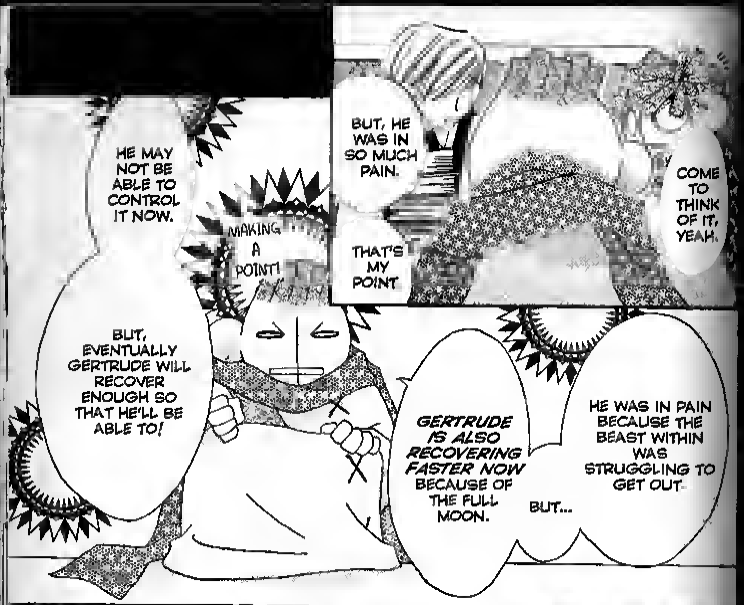
Preview Art for Chapter 11

Requirement: Make it look romantic.

This was really hard for me because my life isn't very romantic. I filled it out with really girly elements. They look good with Sahara, so I'm very relieved. That said, there aren't many girls in this manga.

WHOOSH
SNAP
WAUUUUGH!
STILL, GONNA CATCH THEM, THOUGH.
NO, WAIT.
WE'RE GIVING UP TOO SOON.
WAUGH!
TAKE IT OUTSIDE! PLEASE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT DID WE DO TO DESERVE THIS?
I THINK SO, TOO. YOU CAN'T BEAT HIM.
OUT OF THE QUESTION
WE'RE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH EVEN NOW.
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
DEMONS GAIN THEIR FULL POWERS THEN.
IT'S A FULL MOON.

THE FULL MOON HAS MADE THE BEAST INSIDE STRONGER
RIGHT NOW, GERTRUDE'S LIKE AN UNLOCKED CAGE.
THE BEAST CAN EASILY GET OUT.
BOINK
WHAP
AIEEEEEEE!
WHAT A TOME!
SHATTER
SHATTER
HE'S NOT AS STRONG AS USUAL.
HE'S POWERLESS TO CONTROL THE BEAST BECAUSE HE'S TOO HURT.
AND, JUST THE THREE OF US ARE SUPPOSED TO STOP IT?


COME TO THINK OF IT, YEAH.
BUT, HE WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN.
THAT'S MY POINT.
MAKING A POINT!
HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT NOW.
BUT, EVENTUALLY GERTRUDE WILL RECOVER ENOUGH SO THAT HE'LL BE ABLE TO!
GERTRUDE IS ALSO RECOVERING FASTER NOW BECAUSE OF THE FULL MOON.
BUT...
HE WAS IN PAIN BECAUSE THE BEAST WITHIN WAS STRUGGLING TO GET OUT.

HEY
I GOT IT!
ANOTHER ONE!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THE DAMAGE TO A MINIMUM
HOW?!
SWIPE
WE JUST HAVE TO HANG TOUGH.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
IT'S HIS WOUNDS.
HIS WOUNDS?
WHAT ABOUT THEM?

WE TOOK OFF HIS BANDAGES TO SEE IF THEY WERE INFECTED.
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?
HE LOOKED A LOT BETTER THAN HE DID YESTERDAY.
IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE HOW MUCH.

I WAS SO BUSY WITH YOUR REQUEST I KEPT THE SHOP CLOSED TODAY.
FRAILTY...
THY NAME IS
GERTRUDE
Frailty, thy name is Gertrude.
WAUGH!
HE'S COMING AFTER US!
THAT IT!
YOUR CUSTOMERS DOWNSTAIRS.
ONE OF THEM OUGHT TO BE POWERFUL ENOUGH.
WE ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
THAT'S WHAT GERTRUDE DID BEFORE TO CONTROL THE BEAST
BUT, THIS TIME, THE BEAST IS USING IT TO CONTROL GERTRUDE.
!!

WHAAAM
AIIEEEEEE
YOU RETARD!
THAT'S THE THING IT HATES THE MOST!
FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS!
TA-DA!
IT'S SOMETHING YOU SELDOM SEE—THE SUMMER UNIFORM!
ぼんむん
POOF
THUD THUD
SWISH
I'M WORKING ON IT!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
ANY IDEAS?!

TAKE THIS!
SWIP
JUMP!
GULP
DOF!
BAM

Frailty, thy name is Gertrude
LOOK. THE LETTERS AREN'T FADING YET.
THAT MEANS THE SPELL ISN'T COMPLETELY WORKING.
GERTRUDE'S FIGHTING IT. SO THERE'S HOPE!
DON'T GIVE UP!
NO, WE'RE NOT!
IT'S NOT HOPELESS!
WE JUST HAVE TO WOUND HIM IN HIS LEFT ARM
CUT OFF HIS ARM AND, WITH IT, THE SPELL.
WE'D BETTER DO IT QUICK AT THIS RATE, HE'S GONNA DESTROY YOUR STORE.
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
I STILL DON'T LIKE THE ODDS.
THAT'S YOUR WEAPON?
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR!
SWAP!

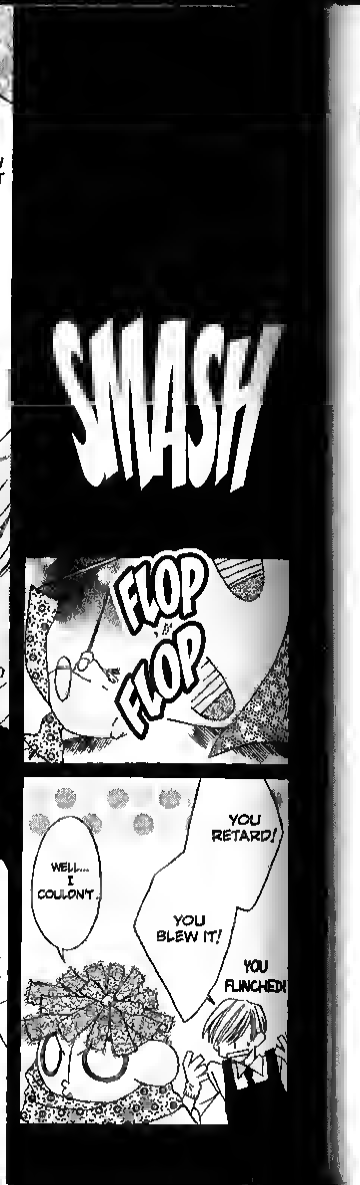
COUNTER!
BOFF
NOW!
UNGFFFF
PASH!!!

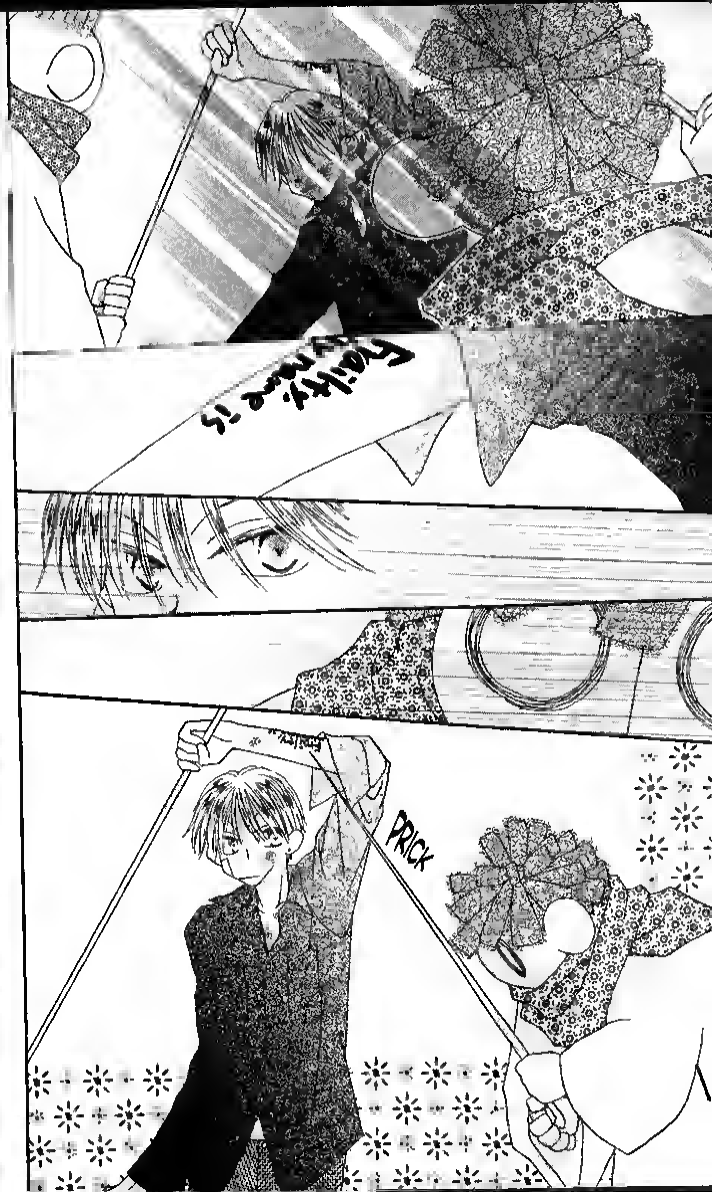
YEAH!
YEAH
READY?!
WE'LL USE THAT OLD MOVE!
FLOP
1+2
DASH
SWISH
DUCK

03

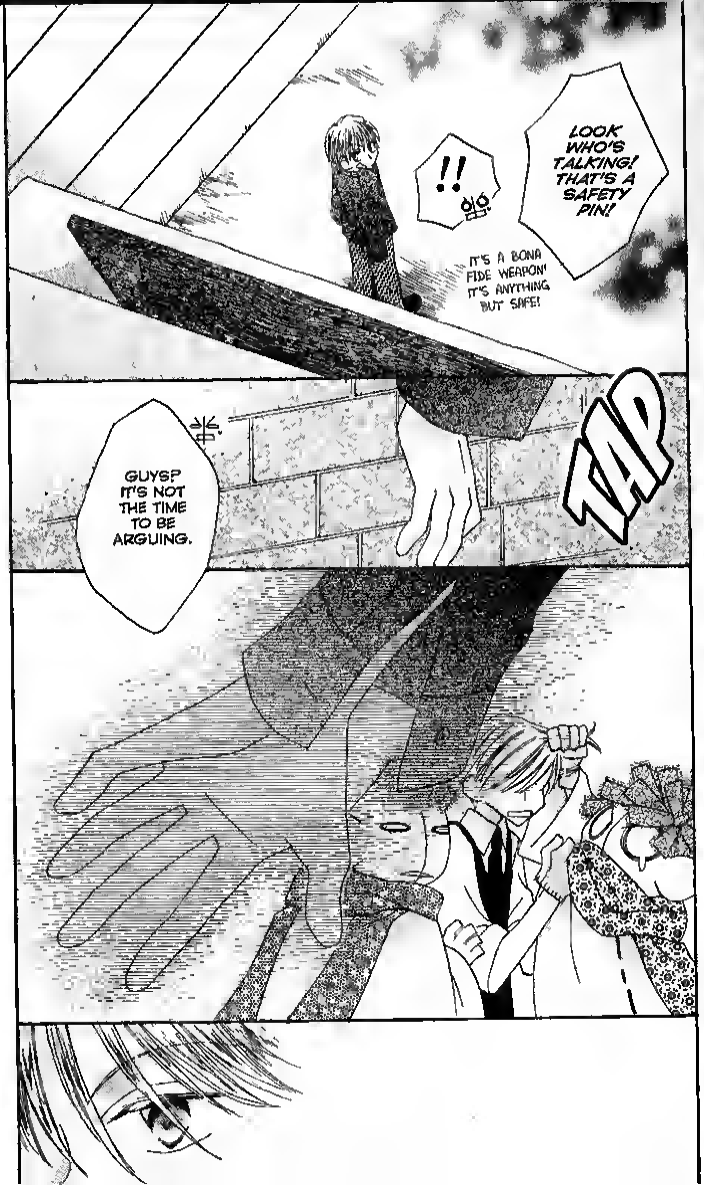
A few words about La fille aux cheveux de lin (The Girl With Flaxen Hair).
The song mentioned in "The Tryst" (volume 2) is the classical one written by Debussy and not the pop song that was popular in Japan.
When I was drawing it, I meant Arum to have flaxen hair, but I was under the mistaken impression that flaxen was this chestnut color. Her hair should've been much paler, closer to beige. So, I shouldn't have used the screen tone like the one I use for Sahara's hair. It looks weird.

YOU BRAIN-LESS DOLT!
YOU BLEW A PERFECT OPPOR-TUNITY.
YOU HAVE TO SLASH HIM! IT'S TO SAVE GERTRUDE!
IT'S TO SAVE THE STORE, TOO!
SHUT UP. YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH A STUPID DUSTER!





WAIT!
IT WAS GONNA END UP DESTROYED ANYWAY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DESTRUCTIVE-- AND MALICIOUS-- HE IS!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK


LOOK WHO'S TALKING! THAT'S A SAFETY PIN!
!!
IT'S A BONA FIDE WEAPON! IT'S ANYTHING BUT SAFE!
TAP
GUYS? IT'S NOT THE TIME TO BE ARGUING.

SHATTER
SHATTER
SHATTER
HEH
HEH
HEH
.....
GRAB
HE'LL WANT US TO.
DASH
THIS TIME I'LL SLASH HIM GOOD.
YOU DO THAT.

CRACK
BAM
ENCYCLOPEDIA
SHATTER
SHATTER
HEH
SHATTER

NOW!
GRAB
SLASH HIM!
SLASH HIM!

JAB
SNAP

SLUMP
GEEZ.
GER-TRUDE?
Fruits Basket
Another
SSSST
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
SLOW-POKE
THANK GOODNESS!
HE'S BACK!

PUPPEN!
...
...DO IT.
HURRY.
Fruits Basket Another
SLASH

IT WAS NEVER RENOVATED.
INCIDENTALLY, IT'S THE OLD MAIN BUILDING.
OH.
WOW.
IT'S ANCIENT.
WHY WASN'T IT RENOVATED?
BECAUSE IT COULDN'T BE.
CLICK
YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT WHY.

IT'S BLACK.
HEY...
HUH?
THE BASEMENT IS INTACT.
YOUR HAIR...
MOON COVER," JUST IN CASE
I KNOW.
EVEN NOW...
IT'S PROOF I'M NOT COMPLETELY IN CONTROL.
I HAVE TO USE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO KEEP IT IN CHECK.

CREAK
CLICK
THE PROFESSOR COLLECTED THESE DURING HIS TRIPS AROUND THE WORLD.
A BIG CHUNK OF HIS PERSONAL COLLECTION IS MIXED IN
HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE RESEARCH AND INTERESTS OVERLAP
YOU LISTENING?
THIS WAS THE PLACE TO BE IF I WAS GOING TO LEARN ANYTHING USEFUL.
CLICK

CREAK
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
IT'S ALMOST COMPLETELY EMPTY.
ONLY THE FOLKLORE OFFICES ARE IN HERE?
NO
IT ALSO HAS A FOLKLORE RESOURCE CENTER
THAT'S WHERE I'M TAKING YOU.

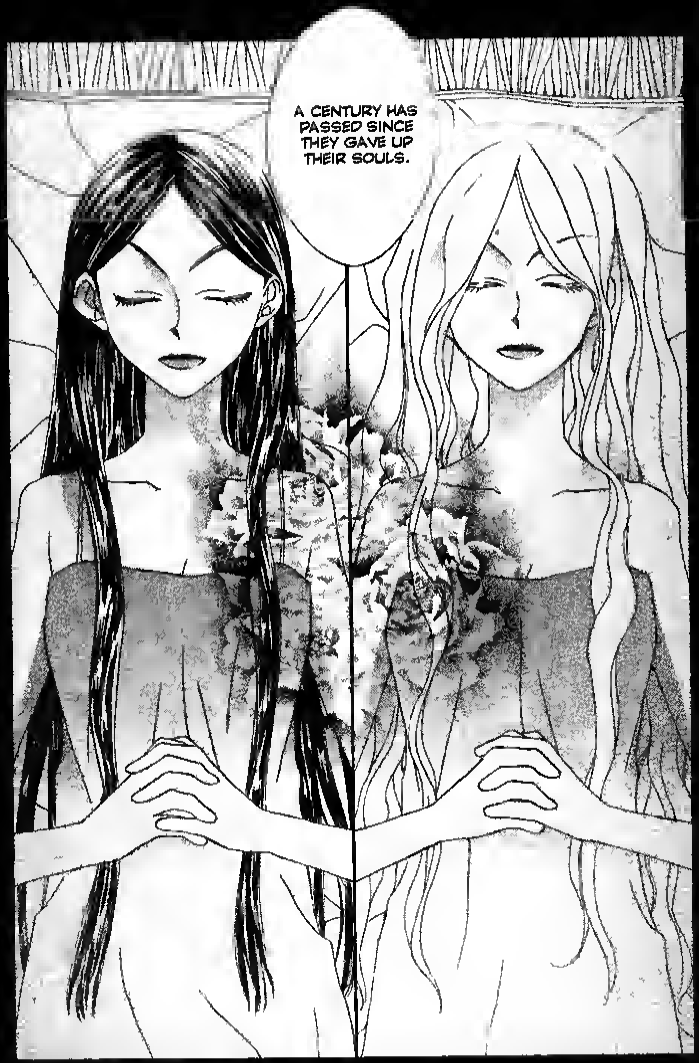
THIS IS MY SECRET LITTLE RETREAT.
CAN NO LONGER FIND THE WORDS TO SAY
WOW
IMPRESSIVE

HEH HEH
BUT, WAIT.
HERE'S THE REAL SECRET.
SEE THOSE CASES THERE?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE COVERS OFF?
PEEK
COULD BE A TRAP. WANT ME TOP?
COULD BE, BUT...

NO.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
THEN WHY ARE THEY HERE?
YOU HAVE TO INTER THEM!
NO
YOU KILLED--
THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL
WHEN DID THEY DIE?
CLOP

PEOPLE?!
MORE LIKE CORPSES. THEY'RE DEAD.
STONE COLD
SO, THEY'RE DEAD-- FOR REAL?!
THEY'RE REAL?!

WHO ARE THEY?
WIFE?
THIS IS MY WIFE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, SHE WAS MY WIFE WHEN I WAS STILL KNOWN AS "CLAUDE."
HER NAME'S HALON.
THE OTHER IS HER TWIN SISTER.


A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THEY GAVE UP THEIR SOULS.

The Recipe for Gertrude
INSIDE MY HEART, THERE IS NO REGRET
LEFT FOR ANY SIN I MAY COMMIT.

HER NAME IS GERTRUDE.

ONLY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS REMAIN

PREVIEW ART FOR CHAPTER 12

Apparently, 666 is the number of the devil-- according to the movie "The Omen." That said, I can't bring myself to watch it because it looks too scary.

?! THREE SOULS?!
THREE SOULS SHARE HIS BODY.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT.
NOT IN THE LEAST!
I, DID YOU?
I DOUBT EVEN GERTRUDE REALIZES IT HIMSELF.
EVEN IF HE REALIZED SOMETHING WAS WRONG, THERE WAS NO WAY FOR HIM TO FIND OUT.
EXCEPT IN THE RECIPE.

IT ALL ENDS TODAY.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
BUT, IT ISN'T AS IF I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO NAME HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE SOULS OF THE TWINS ARE...
...INSIDE GERTRUDE'S BODY.

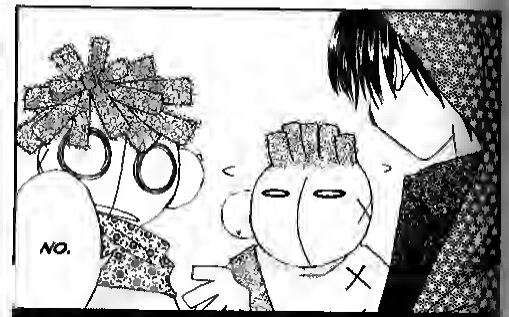
YOUR STORE.
UM... I FEEL BAD I TRASHED IT
SORRY
PLOP!
THERE! YOU'RE READY FOR BUSINESS AGAIN.
SLIGHTLY RENOVATED. THAT'S ALL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY I REALLY AM.
AH, COME ON. IT'S NOTHING. THE UNDER-GROUND FLOORS WEREN'T DAMAGED.
OKAY?
GRUMBLE

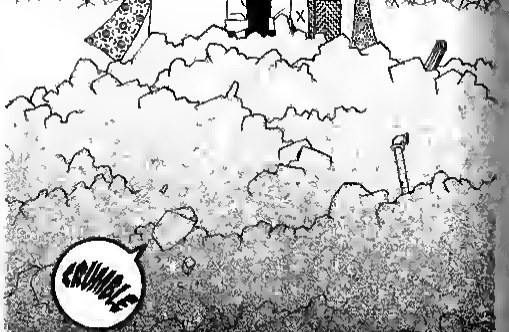
AS IT TURNED OUT, GERTRUDE--AS YOU KNOW HIM--WON OUT.
BUT, AT FIRST, "GERTRUDE"--THE SISTER--USED TO MANIFEST HERSELF MORE OFTEN
NATURALLY, SHE USED HER OWN NAME FOR HER NEW BODY.
IN OTHER WORDS, MY CREATION WAS--AND IS--MISTAKENLY NAMED "GERTRUDE."

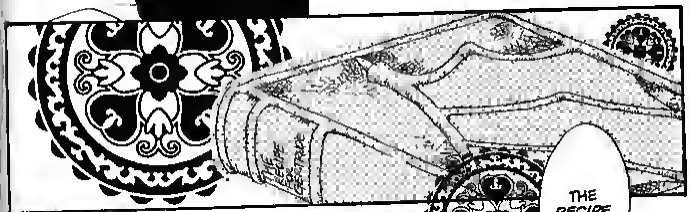
04

Time seems to fly nowadays. When I was a kid, each day seemed so much longer. Even in high school, I used to go, "It's only Wednesday still?" Time started going faster when I was in university. But, it goes by so fast nowadays that it's even hard to believe there are 31 days in a month. It's not as if I'm completely overworked, but I never have time for anything else. Maybe I spend too much time zoning out.

I tend to get bogged down, dwelling on certain things too much

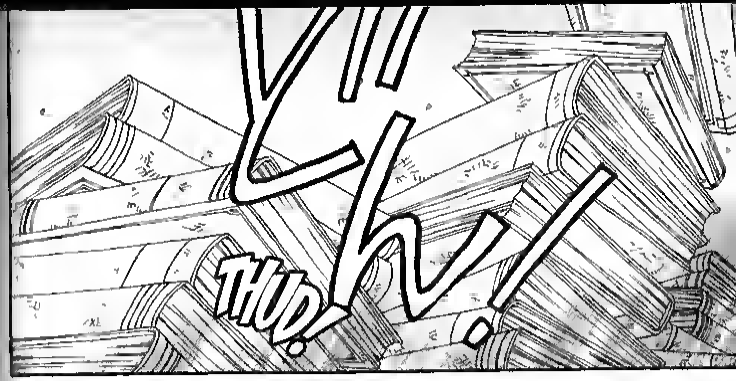




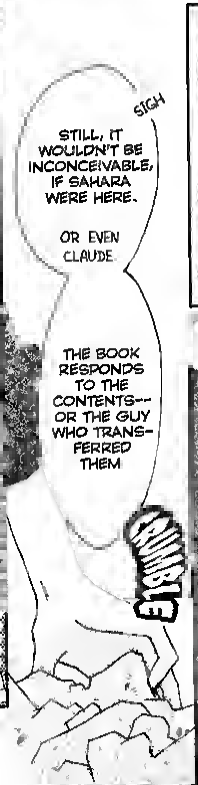


THE RECIPE AND SAHARA.
WHY DON'T YOU PUT THEM ON A SCALE?
CONDESCENDING IN AN OFFHAND MANNER
GERT?
WHAT?

I KNOW WE'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO RETURN THE RECIPE TO THE BOOK.
BUT, IT GOT ME THINKING.
AND CHOOSE ONE OVER THE OTHER?
I CAME TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONE THING I DIDN'T WANT TO DO
TRUE.


THUD!
HU!

EVEN NOW THE BOOK STARTS BOUNCING ABOUT WHEN SAHARA'S AROUND.
REMEMBER?
IF YOU RECALL, THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

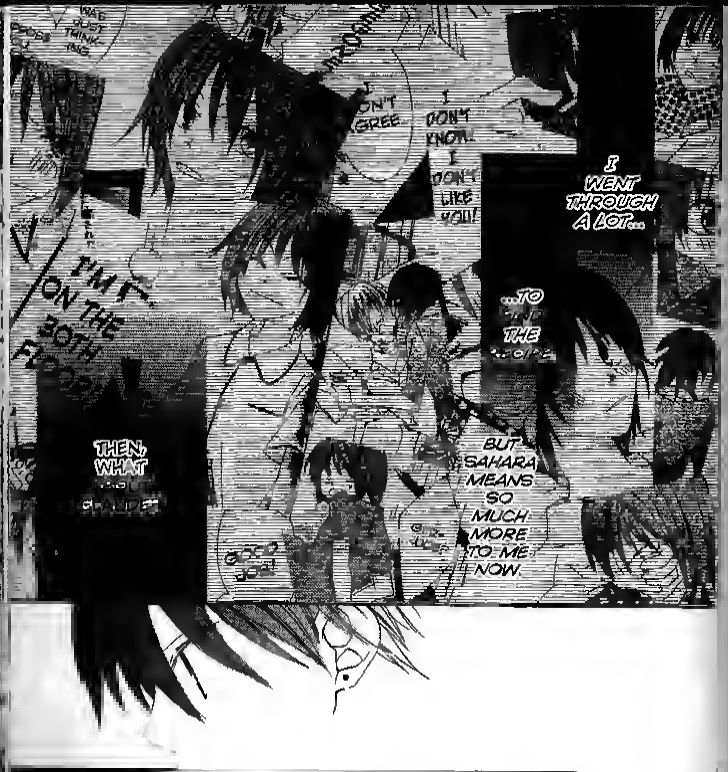

SIGH
STILL, IT WOULDN'T BE INCONCEIVABLE, IF SAHARA WERE HERE.
OR EVEN CLAUDE.
THE BOOK RESPONDS TO THE CONTENTS--OR THE GUY WHO TRANSFERRED THEM
SHUNSUKE

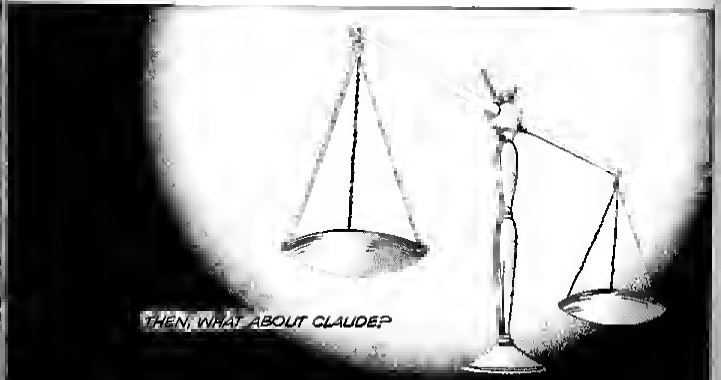
YOU SAID IT.
THIS IS GONNA TAKE FOREVER.
PHEW
I'M HUN-GRY.

IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER TO FIND IF IT SHONE OR MADE NOISES.
WHAT KIND OF BOOK DOES THAT?

THE RECIPE? OR SAHARA?
ONE OR THE OTHER HAS TO BE SACRIFICED.
BUT, MAYBE IT CAN'T BE DONE.
WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE BOTH
PERHAPS HE KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE.
WELL, MAYBE HE WAS NEVER CONCERNED ABOUT SAVING BOTH.

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO COMPROMISE, IT CAN BE DONE.
THAT IS, IF YOU GIVE UP ON EITHER SAHARA OR THE RECIPE.
IT'S NOT AS IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE IS A WAY.
BUT, I'D IMAGINE THAT'D BE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
COMPLETELY.
THE PERSON WHO CAST THE SPELL--
CLAUDE, YOU MEAN.
THOUGHT SO
GRUNT
THIS IS ONLY MY OPINION, BUT HEAR ME OUT


I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T LIKE YOU!
I WENT THROUGH A LOT...
...TO GET THE
BUT SAHARA MEANS SO MUCH MORE TO ME NOW.
I'M F.
ON THE 30TH FLOOR.
THEN, WHAT


THEN, WHAT ABOUT CLAUDE?

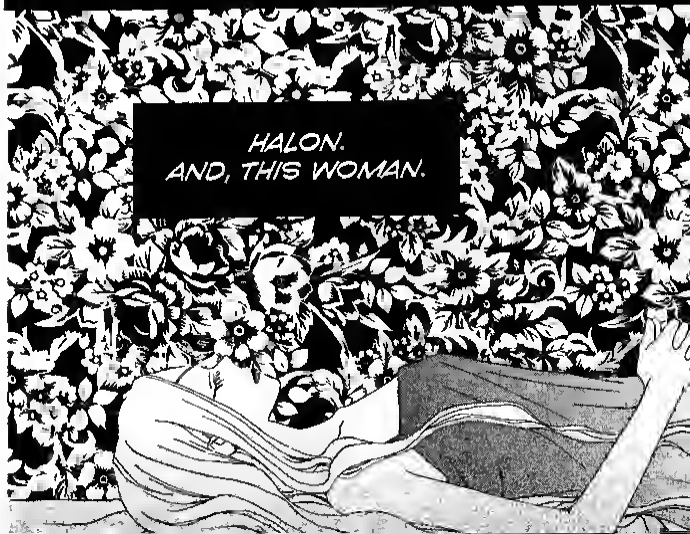
I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT THEM ON A SCALE?
YES. OR...
I'LL TAKE SAHARA OVER THE RECIPE.
THEN I'LL GIVE UP
GIVE UP ON THE RECIPE THAT IS.

THAT EVIL LOOKING ONE?!
THEY WEREN'T LIKE THAT WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU
A LOT ACTUALLY
OH
SORRY. I MEAN YOUR WIFE AND HER SISTER.
THAT CLAUDE WAS A MADMAN WHO'D SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR HIS EXPERIMENTS.
NO?
WHO'S THE REAL MONSTER HERE, CLAUDE?
THREE SOULS?
ISN'T THAT THE ACT OF ONE OF THESE PEOPLE?
FOR FIGHTING?
WAIT A SEC
GERTRUDE SOMETIMES LOSES CONTROL, AND A MONSTER COMES OUT.

I'VE JUST ACCUSED YOU OF USING THESE TWINS, YET YOU'RE NOT PUT OUT BY IT.
THE RUMORS ARE *TRUE*-- FOR THE MOST PART.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN CREATING.
YES, I EXPERIMENTED.
SO THAT I COULD CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL DEMON?
ON THAT COUNT, NO.
YOU ASKED ME WHY I NEEDED A SECOND LIFETIME
NO?
WELL... YES.
IT'S A TRAGEDY SEVERAL SOULS RESIDE IN GERTRUDE'S BODY
I WANT TO SEPARATE MY WIFE'S SOUL FROM THE OTHERS.

THERE'S SOMETHING I STILL DON'T GET.
WHY IS IT SUCH A TRAGEDY?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH *HER* SOUL?
IN THE *RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE.*
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW
THE REST?
SNAP

THAT'S THE ANSWER TO CLAUDE'S RIDDLE.



I THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD!
SHE'S COME BACK TO LIFE!
NOPE. SHE'S DEAD.
AS A DOORMAT.
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO HER.
"GERTRUDE?!"
CRASH

SHE JUMPED!
HOW CAN SHE JUMP SO HIGH?
LEAP
BLACK VAPORS?
SHE'S EATING THEM?
HE'S PROBABLY GOT IT SO THAT SHE CAN LIVE ON BLACK VAPORS---MORE SPECIFICALLY, MY AURA
SHE COULD AT LEAST SAY THANKS
SHE'S EATING FOR FREE
WHO DOES SHE WANT?
PROBABLY ME.
I'M IN THE WAY

SO, MAYBE. .
BSHHH
OOPS
THE BODY HASN'T DECAYED-- EVEN AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS.
GRAB
SHE WASN'T A NORMAL HUMAN.

MOVE BACK.
YEAH
GRAB!!!
SHE'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.
IS IT BECAUSE SHE TOOK IN YOUR ENERGY?
YOU'RE POWERFUL, SO IT'S POWERFUL, TOO?
THERE'S THAT. BUT...

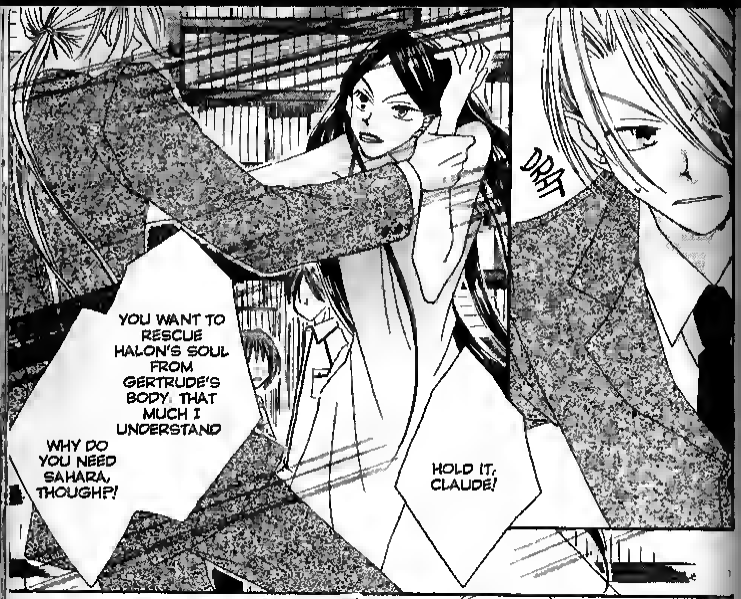
YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR EYE ON HER.
YES. THEY'RE FROM A UNION BETWEEN A DEMON AND A HUMAN.
AND THAT..
IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT.
WAIT A SEC
THAT MEANS YOU'RE WIFE IS ALSO...

KYUSAKU?

SHE'S A BEAST.
REALLY.
SPLICH SPLICH
SLASH
CURTIS?!

The RECIPE for GERTRUDE
Chapter 13

CUT
CUT
CUT


DRAT
HOLD IT, CLAUDE!
YOU WANT TO RESCUE HALON'S SOUL FROM GERTRUDE'S BODY. THAT MUCH I UNDERSTAND
WHY DO YOU NEED SAHARA, THOUGH?!

WHIFF
THERE'S GOTTA BE ANOTHER WAY.
IT WOULDN'T MATTER HOW MANY SOULS THERE ARE.
ALL YOU NEED IS A DEMON TO STICK HIS HAND DOWN HIS THROAT AND RIP IT OUT

Preview art for Chapter 13

I really like the soda bottles that have those marbles inside. I wonder whose idea it was.

GERTRUDE HA MANAGED TO KEEP HIS SOUL INTACT.
BUT, MUCH OF HALON'S HAS BEEN ASSIMILATED INTO HER TWIN'S
THEY'RE SLOWLY BECOMING ONE.
IT'S LIKE HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IN THE DISTANCE

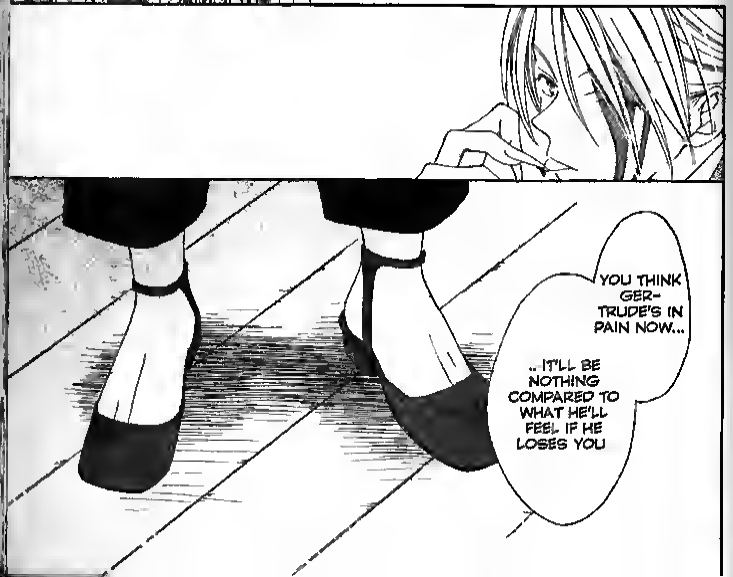
IS IT THE LOOK OF RESOLVE?
TRADITIONAL METHODS OF RELEASING HER SOUL WON'T WORK ANYMORE
SOMETHING RADICAL IS NEEDED.
FOR THAT...
THE RECIPE...

THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED THAT ALREADY.
UNFORTUNATELY, NOTHING'S WORKED.

THAT DISTANT STARE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE SEEN IT A LOT.
THEIR TWO SOULS AREN'T CLEARLY DEFINED ANYMORE.
HE ALWAYS LOOKS SO SAD WHEN HE'S LIKE THIS.

...AND YOUR LIFE...
...ARE BOTH NEEDED.
HE INTENDS TO SACRIFICE ME.
THAT LOOK OF STEELY RESOLVE...
GRAB
WHAM
CURTIS?!
LET GO OF HER

STOP IT!
YOU KNOW THAT.
DIG
DIG
DIG
WAIT.


YOU THINK GER-TRUDE'S IN PAIN NOW...
.. IT'LL BE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT HE'LL FEEL IF HE LOSES YOU

SHOULD I?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HE USES YOUR PARENTS AS A SHIELD.
HE HAS YOU UNDER HIS THUMB.
COME ON.
WHY DON'T I RIP HIS THROAT OUT?
DIG
DIG
HE'LL ONLY CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS.
DIG
IT'S POINTLESS TO CONTINUE THIS STANDOFF.

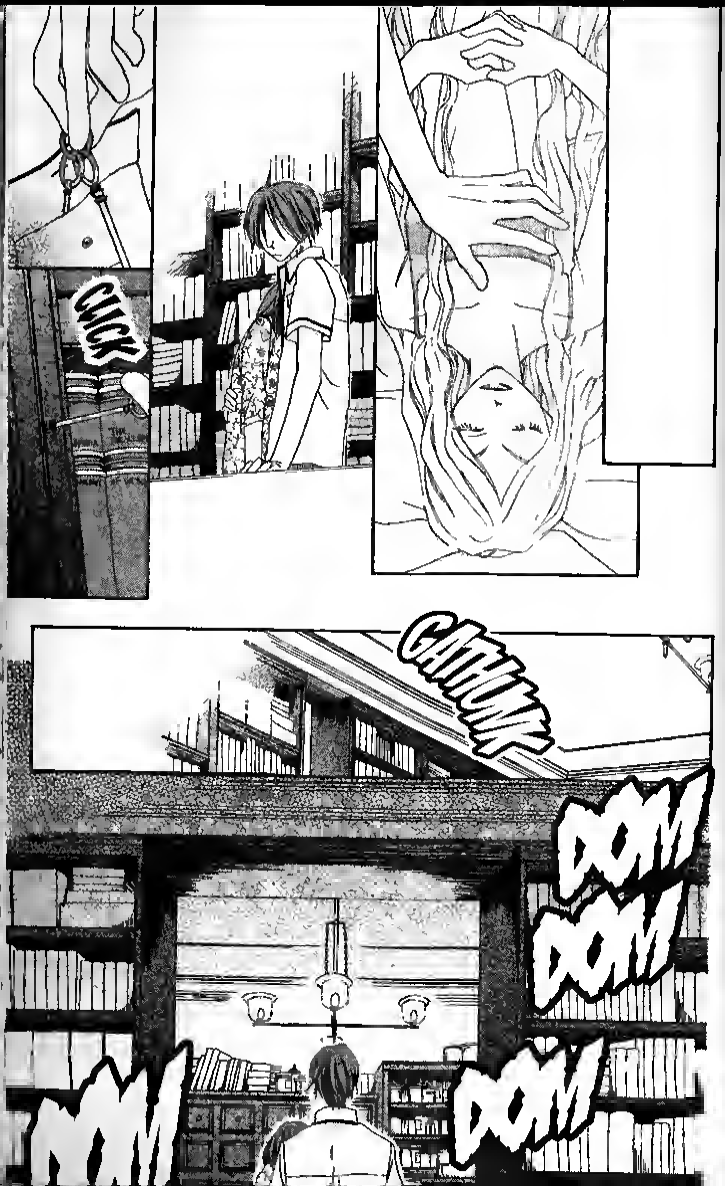
!!
GULP
SHE WAS DEAD TO BEGIN WITH.
BOFF

EVEN THEN?
I COULD NEVER SEE HIM HURT
DASH
NEVER.

SCRUUUCH
WHACK!
CURTIS!
SLAM
SMASH
!
SLASH
IT WON'T BE THAT EASY TO STOP HER

KKKKKK
CLOP
CLAUDE?
I SWEAR YOU LOVE THAT GIRL AS YOUR SISTER
SHE MEANS A LOT TO YOU.
AM I RIGHT?
HUFF

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
DEVOUR THE REST OF HIS AURA.
FLOP
TOTTP...OOO
HUFF
YOUR COMMENT IS UNNECES-SARILY NASTY.
AFTER ALL, A GAPING HOLE IN YOUR STOMACH WON'T STOP YOU EITHER.
BUT, UNLIKE THE DEAD, YOU FEEL PAIN
ARGH ..
GLOB


CLICK
GASP!!
DOM!
DOM!
DOM!
DOM!

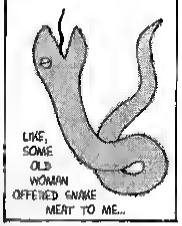
OW OW OW
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
THUD
ABSO-LUTELY
YES.
BUT, HE DEFINITELY DOESN'T LIKE YOU.
LOOK AT THE WAY HE TREATS YOU OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE A SOUL, BUT STILL.
SORRY.
BUT, I'M TAKING MY AURA BACK.

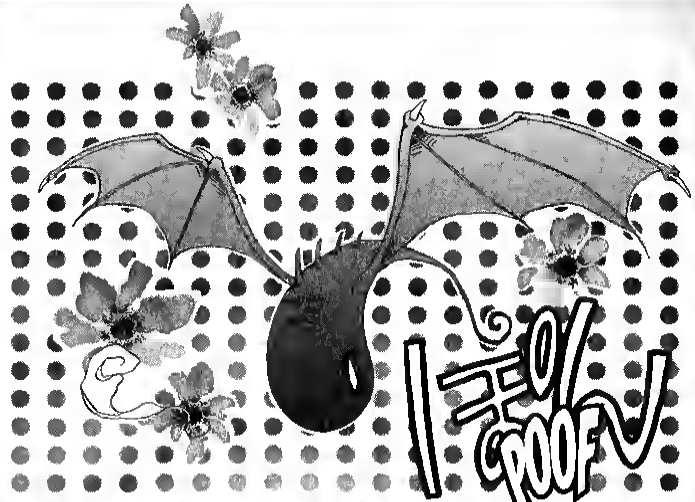
I'M GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT.
YEAH!
GO RESCUE HER!
SHE MIGHT NOT BE AT HER PLACE
SCRAPE
FRAILTY...
THY NAME IS RECIPE.
CRACK

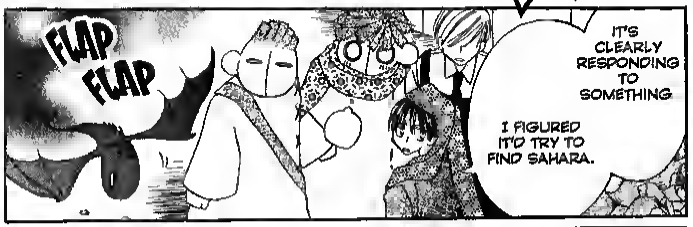
CHAPTER
THERE'S THE RECIPE!
SPIN SPIN
MAYBE SAHARA'S BACK
NO.
CLATTER
LOOK AT THAT! IT'S REALLY FLOPPING AROUND!
CLATTER
CLATTER
GRRRK
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED
HMM
IT DIDN'T BOUNCE AROUND LIKE THIS EVEN WHEN SHE WAS AROUND

05

I sleep a lot when I'm not completely up to my eyeballs with work. Anything less than eight hours is just not enough. I have recurring dreams in which I run around or I slide off things. My recent dreams are very interesting because they seem so real. Taste. Touch. Even the temperature. They're so there. Sometimes I wake up feeling really content, knowing I had a good dream (but those are the very dreams I can't remember). That said, most of the time, I see awful dreams.

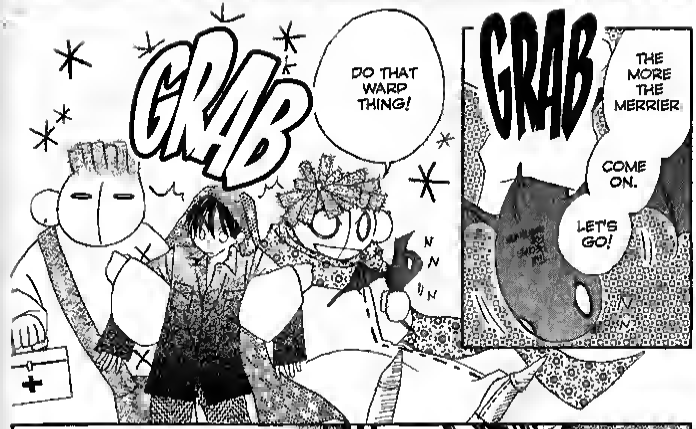






UP ALREADY?
I DIDN'T HIT YOU HARD ENOUGH.
SOB
HUH?
KYUSA-KU?
THERE'S HALON BUT WHERE'S GUNTA?

HEH?
YOU'RE COMING, TOO?
PUFFFFFFF PUFFFFFFF


GRAB
DO THAT WARP THING!
GRAB
THE MORE THE MERRIER
COME ON.
LET'S GO!

HEH.
NORTH.
HURRY!
WHOOOSH

I DON'T WANT TO.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE YET.
YES.
THIS WAS INEVITABLE, WASN'T IT?
YOU KNEW IT'D COME TO THIS
YOU KNEW IT WHEN YOU TRANS-FERRED THE RECIPE TO MY BONES

IT'S 'CAUSE I CHANGED YOU.
MY CLOTHES ARE DIFFER-ENT.
WHAT'S WITH THIS DRESS?
SO THERE!
FLAP
I'M GOING TO PUT A SPELL ON YOU AND THE RECIPE.
IT WAS PREPA-RATION FOR THAT
BUT, THE POTION IS ALREADY WORKING.
YOU CAN'T MOVE, CAN YOU?
YOU'LL FALL ASLEEP SOON

SO?
IS THIS THE END FOR ME?

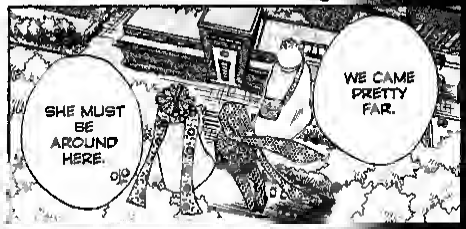
I'M SO SORRY IT WAS I WHO HAD TO BE YOUR BROTHER.
WHY AM I EVEN SAYING THIS? THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.
I ENJOYED MY TIME WITH YOU.
HONEST.

YES.
YOU WERE STILL VERY YOUNG WHEN I TRANS-FERRED THE RECIPE
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY QUALMS THEN.
RATHER, I WAS ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT ANY MISGIVING.
THAT MAD RESOLVE..
...WHEN DID IT START TO WEAKEN?

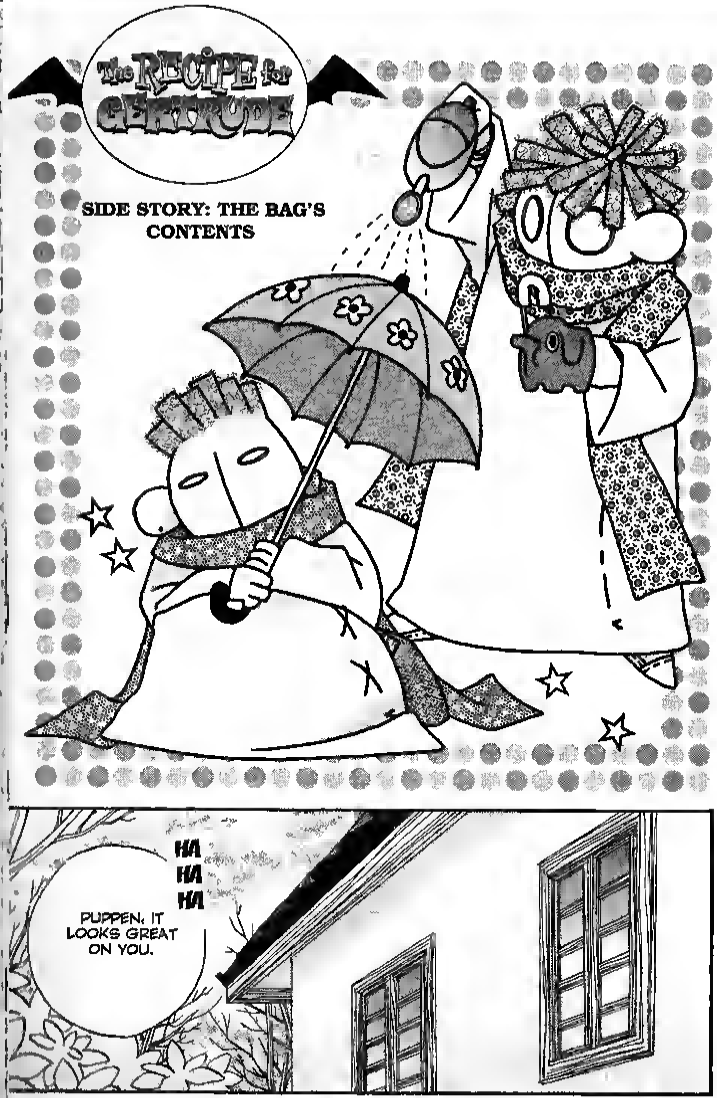
MOM? DAD? I'M SO SORRY.
I WONDER IF CURTIS IS ALL RIGHT?
GERTRUDE, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
I WANTED TO TELL HIM I LIKED HIM, TOO.
I CAN'T OPEN MY EYES.
I FEEL LIKE I'M FALLING DEEPER AND DEEPER.
I CAN HEAR MY BROTHER TALKING.
IT'S ALL VERY QUIET.
LET THE RITUAL BEGIN.

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE, VOLUME 3 END.

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO FREE HER SOUL USING MY LIFE AND RECIPE.

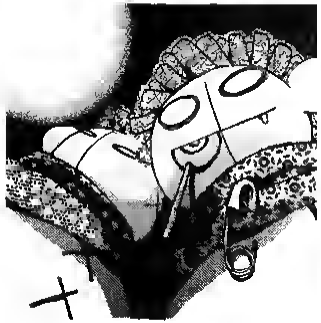


WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING TO HAPPEN?



Preview art for "The Bag"

I drew the two, keeping in mind they're really demons. Do they look more imposing than usual? That's not a fang on Puppen--it's drool.



YOUR BAG!
OH.
THINK WHAT'S INSIDE IS OKAY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT IS INSIDE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL JUST WASH IT.
SPLASH
I'VE SEEN HIM PULL OUT NEEDLE AND STRING.
ME, TOO
WHAT ELSE?
YOU'RE HIS BUDDY
WHAT ELSE?
POTIONS. BOOKS. ALL SORTS. I'M NOT REALLY SURE, THOUGH.

WARM AND FUZZY
I WANT THIS. ♡
HUGGLE HUGGLE
...
YOU CAN HAVE IT. I MADE IT FOR HOME EC
IT'S ALREADY BEEN GRADED
ER.. UM. NO NO.
IT BOTHERS YOU I MISSED STITCHES ALL OVER
THUD
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT?
OOPS

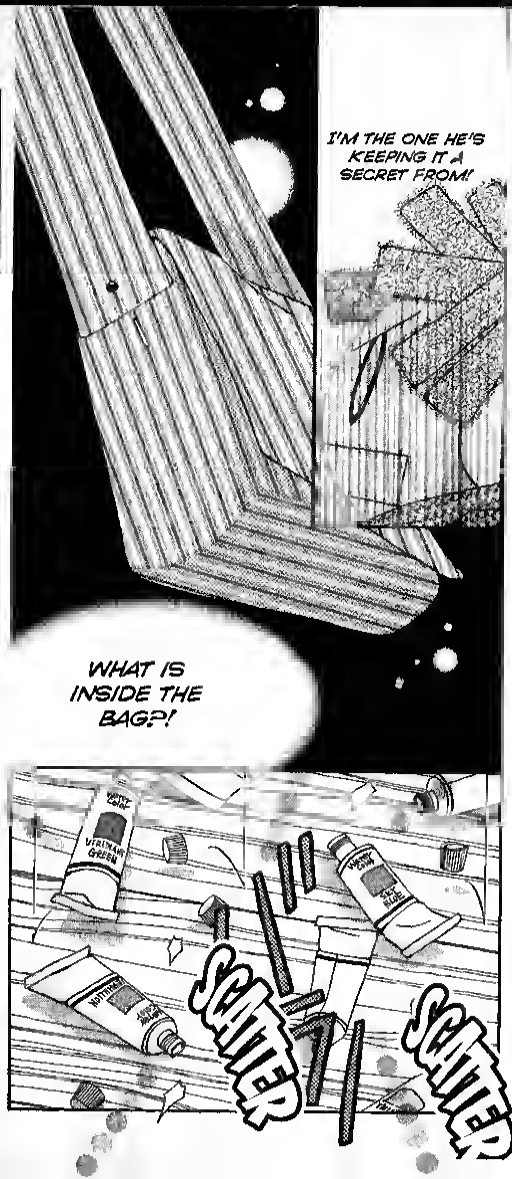
GULP
ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE THAT BAG
WORD! TOTALLY DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
HEY!
NO SENSE IN LEAVING THEM AROUND.
UH... YEAH... UM...
HEY, LOOK YOUR COFFEE'S GONE COLD.
I'M INTERESTED ALL THE MORE.
HE DOESN'T WANT US TO KNOW.
SLAM

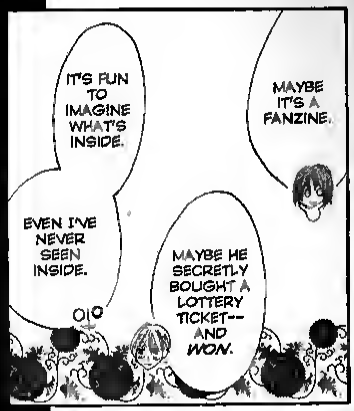
PHEW
THE WEATHER'S NOT COOPERATING.
I'LL HAVE TO HANG IT INSIDE AND HOPE IT DRIES BY TONIGHT.
!!
ALL EXCITED
MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING
NOW THAT HE'S WASHED IT, THE BAG'S SOAKING WET
I'LL BET YOU THERE'S VINEGARY DRIED SEAWEED IN THERE
MAYBE EVEN A COAT BRUSH?
GOOD THING I HAVE A SPARE
SWAZZY!
A SPARE?!

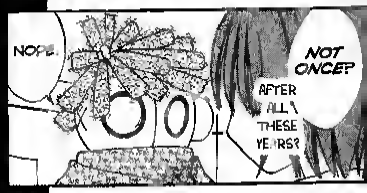
06

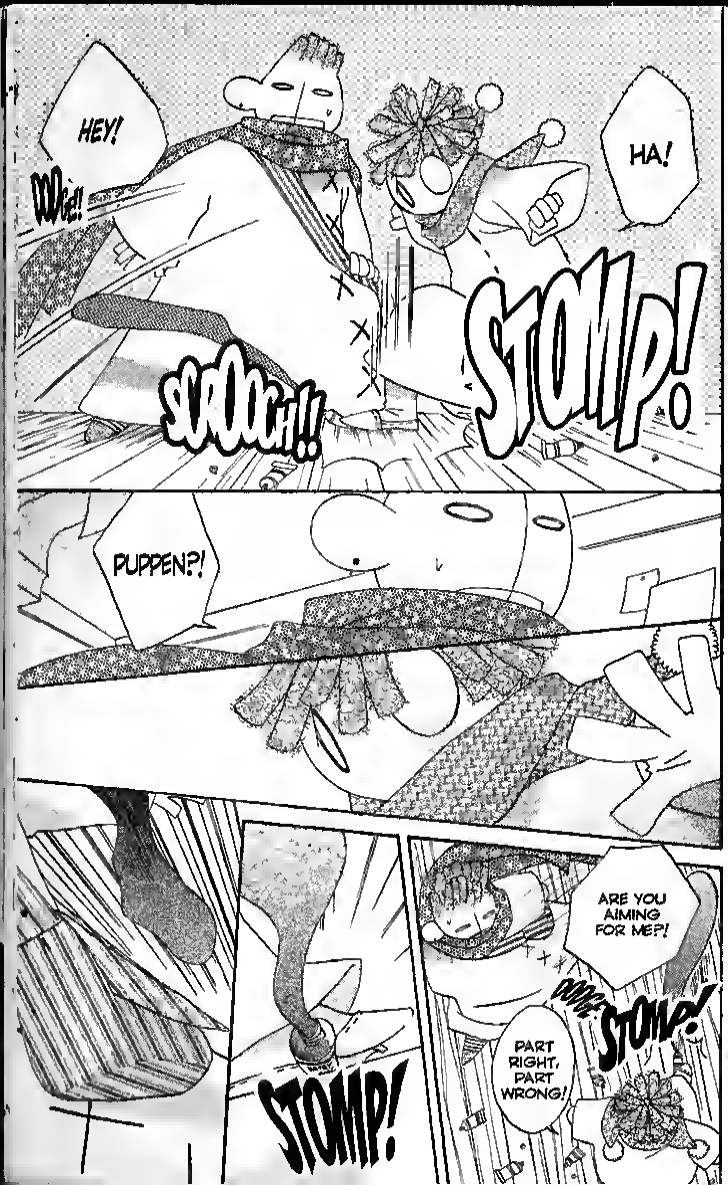
The bookstore I used to work at went out of business. The people there were so helpful even after I quit. So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone there, from the president, to the regular employees, to the part-timers. I liked working there. I excelled at wrapping comic books. We didn't have a machine that did it like they do at most places. I was really fast at putting the books into plastic sleeves and taping them shut--in my dreams.

See you at the end of the book.




IT'S FUN TO IMAGINE WHAT'S INSIDE.
MAYBE IT'S A FANZINE.
EVEN I'VE NEVER SEEN INSIDE.
MAYBE HE SECRETLY BOUGHT A LOTTERY TICKET--AND WON.

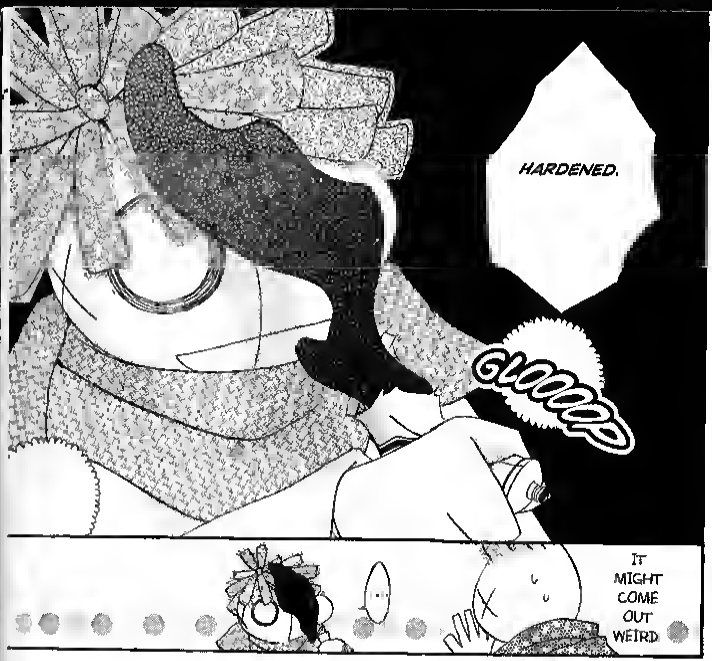


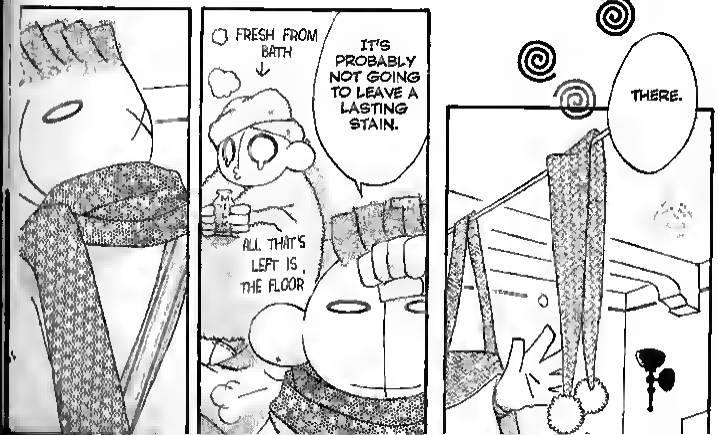

HEY!
HA!
STOMP!
SCOOCH!!
PUPPEN?!
ARE YOU AIMING FOR ME?!
PART RIGHT, PART WRONG!
STOMP!
STOMP!

KNOCK KNOCK
CLICK
PUPPEN, IT'S DINNER
HEY!
YOU MADE A MESS--AGAIN!
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY
I NEED TO FIND OUT
WATER COLOR
OTHERWISE, THE PAINT WILL HARDEN.
YOU HAVE TO PUT THE CAPS BACK ON WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED
WRONG
I'M ABOUT TO USE THEM
I'M GONNA FORCE YOU TO WASH THAT SPARE, TOO!
LIFT
ばっ

YOU'RE QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT.
THIS'LL NEVER WORK.
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
STOMP
THAT'S WHY!
SO WRONG!
THAT IS SO WRONG!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE PROOF IS IN THE BAG!
GREEN ONION?!
MIRROR
SPRAY
JUMBO SIZE

MAYBE YOU'RE REALLY A WOMAN. YOU'RE ALWAYS FUSSING ABOUT, CLEANING AND COOKING.
OR MAYBE YOU'RE NOT A PUPPET MASTER, BUT ACTUALLY A GREEN ONION MONSTER.
IF NOT A GREEN ONION, MAYBE A TURNIP BULB
I GET IT NOW.
YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE BAG
I'M GONNA FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT'S IN THERE
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPARES LEFT.
SHOULDN'T WE RESPECT EACH OTHER'S PRIVACY?
SO, IT'S A HUGE SECRET AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE WASTING PAINT.
THERE'S NOTHING WORTH-WHILE IN HERE.
REALLY? THEN LET ME SEE INSIDE


HARDENED.
GLOOOP
IT MIGHT COME OUT WEIRD


FRESH FROM BATH
IT'S PROBABLY NOT GOING TO LEAVE A LASTING STAIN.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE FLOOR
THERE.

HARDLY
EVEN AMONG FRIENDS YOU CAN PUSH THINGS TOO FAR
BESIDES, A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.
IT'S JUST THAT SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID.
TRUST ME.
THERE'S NO PROOF OF ANYTHING IN HERE!
GASP
WAIT! DON'T!
DON'T USE THAT ONE!
THAT'S PROBABLY THE ONE THAT'S--!
SQUEEZE

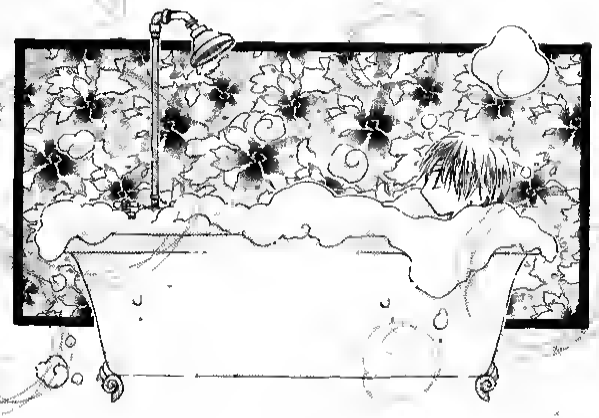
I'M SORRY...
...MARIOTTE
I REALLY—
SQUISH
THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED AT LAST.
THE BAG IS FILLED WITH LOVE AND...

THAT'S THE ONE I KNITTED.
I HAD IT IN MY BAG BECAUSE I MEANT TO GIVE YOU IT.
IT WAS SHEER COINCIDENCE SAHARA MADE ONE, TOO. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO PULL IT - OUT.
I THOUGHT YOU WASHED SAHARA'S MUFFLER
?
HUH?
IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF POOR TIMING.
BETTER KNITTED THAN SAHARA'S!
BUT, I ALSO MADE ONES FOR SAHARA, GERTRUDE, AND ME.
THESE ARE DIFFERENT COLORS
...

No.
Date 2001 - 2002

KUSAKAWA'S NOTES

COMMENTS ABOUT "THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE"



ABOUT THE BATH

THE HOUSE WHERE GERTRUDE AND FRIENDS LIVE HAS A BATH LIKE THE ONE ABOVE. GERTRUDE ACTUALLY LIKES BATHING, SO HE LIKES TO TAKE HIS TIME, SOAKING UP. HE'S THE TYPE THAT LIKES TO ZONE OUT AND FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING WHILE HE'S HAVING A BATH. PUPPEN LIKES HIS BATHS HOT. HE OFTEN GETS DIZZY FROM STAYING IN TOO LONG BECAUSE HE'S TOO BUSY PLAYING WITH TOYS. MARIOTTE PREPERS A QUICK BATH BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT THE BATH TO WAKE HIM UP BEFORE HE GOES TO BED. ON PAGE 112, I DREW PUPPEN AND MARIOTTE AS THEY COME OUT OF A JAPANESE PUBLIC BATH. THE TWO, IN PARTICULAR PUPPEN, WANTED TO SEE IF THEY COULD GET IN.

DIARY
DIARY
IT'S A GOOD THING HE DIDN'T SEE THIS.
JUNE 24
PUPPEN SPILLED HOT CHOCOLATE ON THE EMBROIDERED CURTAIN I MADE.
NEXT TIME, I'M GOING TO USE A SIMPLER PATTERN.
JUNE 7
I USED A POT, BUT THAT LET PUPPEN HOG THE ENTIRE THING. EVERYBODY COMPLAINED. NEXT TIME, I WON'T USE A POT.
SOB
I'M GOING TO BE WRITING A LOT TODAY, TOO.
..ANGUISH
SIDE STORY: THE BAG--END.

ABOUT THE STORIES

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE--CHAPTER 9

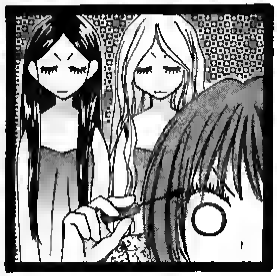
EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG GIRL, I'VE REALLY WANTED TO WALK AROUND ON A CLOUD--IF SUCH A THING WERE EVER POSSIBLE. THAT'S WHERE I GOT THE IDEA FOR THE CLOUD SEQUENCE. SAHARA ALSO MENTIONS THAT SHE NEEDED TO BE SHOWN HOW TO DO A SOMERSAULT. APPARENTLY, I NEEDED TO BE SHOWN HOW TO SKIP AND RIDE A SWING. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS AWFUL IN P.E.

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE--CHAPTER 10

IN VOLUME ONE, I WROTE THAT I CALLED GERTRUDE "BOY G" BUT, AS YOU KNOW, GERTRUDE IS A GIRL'S NAME. SO, I'VE RECENTLY BEEN CALLING HIM "GIRL G." THE EVIL TWIN I CALL "SISTER G." I'VE TAKEN TO SHORTENING MARIOTTE TO MARIO.

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE--CHAPTER 11

AMONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS, MARIOTTE'S HEAD WHEN VIEWED FROM ABOVE WAS VERY UNPOPULAR. THEIR REACTION WAS "EW, GROSS!" IT'S NOT AS IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK? IN ANY CASE, I DIDN'T BOTHER TO CHANGE IT. IT'S IN THE UPPER LEFT PANEL ON PAGE 98.



THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE--CHAPTER 12

WHILE I WAS RENDERING THIS EPISODE, I SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN A COUPLE OF STEPS AT HOME. WHEN I WAS IN UNIVERSITY, I SLID DOWN A FLIGHT OF STEPS ON MY BUM. I ALSO WIPED OUT ON THE STAIRS AT A TRAIN STATION, SMASHING MY SHIN AND ALMOST SCATTERING MY FRIEND'S MANGA EVERYWHERE. HMM...

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE--CHAPTER 13

GERTRUDE WAS SUGGESTED FOR THE COVER BECAUSE HE DOESN'T APPEAR VERY MUCH IN THIS PART. I DITTO FOR THE SOLO APPEARANCE ON THE COVER OF PART 1! THE FLOWERS IN THE BACKGROUND ARE GARDENIAS. I DREW THEM SO THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GIVING OFF A SWEET SCENT. ALTHOUGH IT'S A PAIN TO DRAW, I REALLY WANT A BOOKSHELF THAT COVERS THE ENTIRE WALL. I WANT TO CALL A ROOM LIKE THAT MY OWN ONE DAY.

THE BAG'S CONTENTS

A LOOK INTO THE DAILY LIVES OF PUPPEN, WHO DOES AS HE PLEASES, AND MARIOTTE, HIS LONG-SUFFERING FRIEND. PUPPEN LOVES TO DRAW. HIS DRAWINGS ARE HUNG THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE. ALL THE PICTURES IN THE LIVING ROOM WERE APPARENTLY DRAWN BY PUPPEN.

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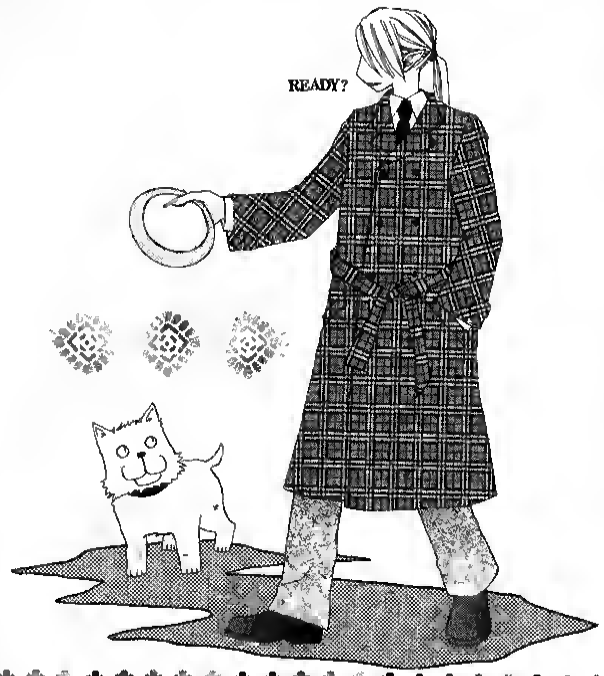


TO MY READERS

MY EDITOR, PUBLISHER, AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO HELPED FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND THE LIQUOR STORE WHERE I DO MY PHOTOCOPYING...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

2002. 08.

KUBAKAWA'S NOTES--END

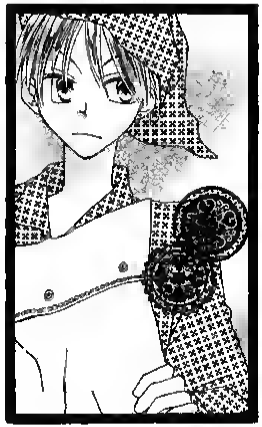
No.
Date 2001- 2002

ABOUT EATING

THE DEMONS OF GERTRUDE'S WORLD DON'T ACTUALLY NEED TO EAT. THEY CAN LIVE OFF THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY AND AURAS THAT ARE FLOATING AROUND, BUT THEY LIKE TO EAT AND DRINK NORMAL FOOD BECAUSE IT'S SO NICE. PUPPEN IS PARTICULARLY FOND OF SWEETS AND RICE DISHES. MARIOTTE LIKES TOFU. GERTRUDE LIKES TEA IN GENERAL LIKE PUPPEN. SAHARA LIKES EVERYTHING. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLAUDE SEEMS THE TYPE WHO REGULARLY SKIPS MEALS. CURTIS LOOKS THE SORT WHO PREFERS DAINTY MORSELS OF MEAT AND FISH. IT'S JUST A HUNCH. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE STOREKEEPER OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA PREFERS BOOKS OVER FOOD.

ABOUT SLEEPING

IN VOLUME TWO, GERTRUDE AND EVERYONE SLEPT ON A BED AND HAD BREAKFAST TOGETHER. BUT, THEY WERE PROBABLY ADJUSTING THEIR SCHEDULES TO SAHARA'S. I WOULD IMAGINE THEY DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHEN THEY GO TO SLEEP OR WAKE UP. MARIOTTE GRINDS HIS TEETH BECAUSE OF THE "GRIND" HE HAS TO PACE EVERY DAY. PUPPEN AND SAHARA LOOK THE SORTS WHO'VE NEVER EVER HAD TO COUNT SHEEP TO FALL ASLEEP. GERTRUDE WOULD PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT BEING ATTACKED AS HE SLEPT. CLAUDE PROBABLY DOESN'T SLEEP VERY MUCH. CURTIS IS CRANKY WHEN HE GETS UP. THE STOREKEEPER NEVER SLEEPS, READING INSTEAD.



THE SECRET OF THE "RECIPE" IS REVEALED IN APRIL!

By Nari Kusakawa. Gertrude must rescue his friend Sahara from his evil creator, Claude. The "recipe" in its animate form leads him to her location, where he finds her trapped in a magically induced slumber. But if Gertrude tries to awaken her, Claude's counter-spell might destroy both Gertrude and Sahara!

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Puppen and Manotte in humen guise, coming out of e Jepenese public beth. (See Kusakawa's Notes on page 187.) Created for the front flap of the originel Jepanese edition of THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE Volume 3.

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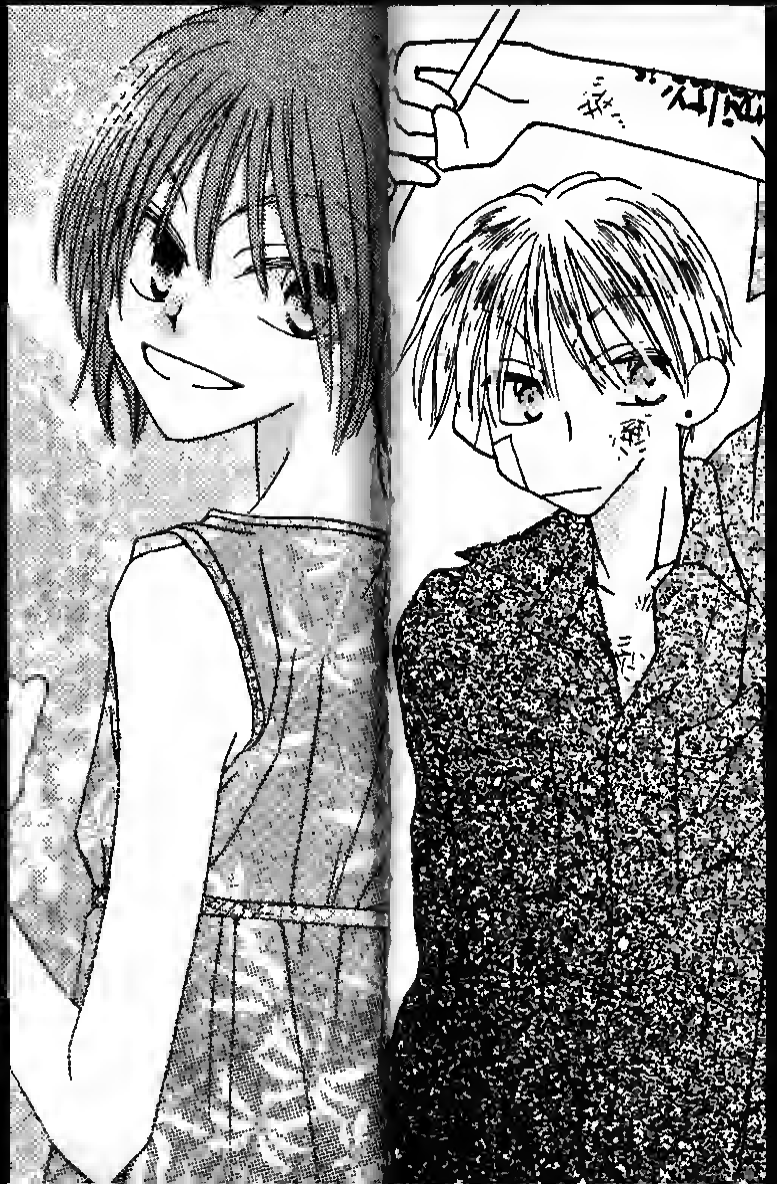

KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE

With the wide variety of manga available, CMX understands it can be confusing to determine age-appropriate material. We rate our books in four categories: EVERYONE, TEEN, TEEN + and MATURE. For the TEEN, TEEN + and MATURE categories, we include additional, specific descriptions to assist consumers in determining if the book is age appropriate. (Our MATURE books are shipped shrink-wrapped with a Parental Advisory sticker affixed to the wrapper.)

E

EVERYONE

Titles with this rating are appropriate for all age readers. They contain no offensive material. They may contain mild violence and/or some comic mischief.

T

TEEN

Titles with this rating are appropriate for a teens audience and older. They may contain some violent content, language, and/or suggestive themes.

T+

TEEN PLUS

Titles with this rating are appropriate for an audience of 16 and older. They may contain partial nudity, mild profanity and more intense violence.

M

MATURE

Titles with this rating are appropriate only for mature readers. They may contain graphic violence, nudity, sex and content suitable only for older readers.